



Leadership *with* **Impact**

Cultivating Hope, Building Resilient Teams &
Shaping the Future of Healthcare Systems

2026 ACHE-SAN DIEGO EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Guest Speaker Biographies



DIMITRIOS ALEXIOU, FACHE

President and CEO of the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties.



BACKGROUND

Dimitrios Alexiou, FACHE, is a healthcare executive serving as President and CEO of the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties. In this role, he leads advocacy, policy engagement, and strategic initiatives on behalf of more than 38 hospitals and health systems across the region. Alexiou works closely with healthcare leaders, policymakers, and community organizations to advance issues related to patient care, healthcare access, and system sustainability. Prior to this role, he served as Regional Vice President at the Hospital Association of Southern California and held leadership roles in healthcare operations, including Chief Operating Officer for Totally Kids Specialty Healthcare. He holds a Master of Health Administration from California State University, Northridge and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

RITA ESSAIAN, DM, MHA
Chief People Officer
Sharp HealthCare



BACKGROUND

Rita Essaian, DM, MHA, is a seasoned healthcare human resources and organizational leader with decades of experience advancing workforce culture, employee engagement, and organizational strategy. She currently serves as Chief People Officer at Sharp HealthCare, where she leads HR strategy and programs that strengthen leadership, support staff development, and enhance the employee experience across the health system. Throughout her career, Essaian has led transformational HR initiatives and strategic workforce planning in large healthcare organizations. Her leadership focuses on aligning people strategy with institutional mission and operational priorities. She holds a Doctor of Management and a Master of Health Administration, reflecting her deep commitment to excellence in healthcare leadership.

ELIZABETH GARCIA, MHA

Vice President of Operations at Neighborhood Healthcare



BACKGROUND

Elizabeth Garcia, MHA, is a healthcare executive serving as Vice President of Operations at Neighborhood Healthcare, where she leads operational strategy and oversees clinical programs and service delivery across the organization's network of clinics. In this role, Garcia drives initiatives that expand patient access, optimize workflows, and improve operational performance to ensure high-quality, patient-centered care.

With extensive experience in healthcare administration, Elizabeth specializes in program development, performance improvement, and cross-functional team leadership. She has a proven track record of implementing strategic initiatives that enhance efficiency, strengthen care delivery systems, and support the long-term sustainability of community health organizations. Her leadership is grounded in a commitment to advancing equitable healthcare access and improving health outcomes for the communities served.

Elizabeth holds a Master of Health Administration (MHA), reflecting her dedication to effective healthcare management, operational excellence, and continuous improvement in healthcare delivery.

CDR DEREK HOFFMAN

Director for Administration

Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command

Camp Pendleton



BACKGROUND

Derek Hoffman, FACHE, PMP, is a healthcare executive with extensive experience in healthcare operations, strategic planning, and project management. He has led complex initiatives focused on improving healthcare delivery, operational efficiency, and organizational performance. Throughout his career, Hoffman has worked with multidisciplinary teams to implement large-scale operational and strategic programs within healthcare systems. His leadership approach emphasizes collaboration, performance improvement, and data-driven decision making. Hoffman is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), reflecting his commitment to excellence in healthcare leadership and professional development.

RICK KING

Area Chief Financial Officer
Kaiser Permanente: San Diego



BACKGROUND

Rick King serves as the Area Chief Financial Officer for Kaiser Permanente San Diego, where he leads financial strategy, operational planning, and growth initiatives. With a career spanning finance and corporate leadership, he has led organizations through complex financial transformations and strategic expansion. Prior to his current role, he held senior leadership positions in finance and operations across a range of healthcare institutions. He has worked for both stand-alone hospitals and large hospital chains, including systems of up to 345 hospitals. Early in his healthcare career he worked primarily in the for-profit hospital sector before moving into district and non-profit hospital systems. He holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Finance from San Diego State University.

DR. FERNANDO LEYVA

Chief Medical Officer of Sharp Community Medical Group



BACKGROUND

Dr. Fernando Leyva is a physician executive with more than two decades of experience in clinical medicine, healthcare leadership, and system transformation. He currently serves as Chief Medical Officer of Sharp Community Medical Group in San Diego, where he provides executive physician leadership for a network of more than 1,100 physicians practicing across 600 sites of care. In this role, he oversees clinical quality, utilization management, credentialing, and risk management while partnering with executive leadership to advance care delivery models, physician engagement, and data-driven performance improvement. His work emphasizes the critical leadership responsibility of aligning competing demands of our healthcare systems to support clinical excellence, staff satisfaction, innovation, and financial stewardship to ensure sustainable, high-value care.

DOUG LOOP

Corporate Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer for the Scripps Medical Foundation at Scripps Health



BACKGROUND

Doug Loop is a healthcare finance executive currently serving as Corporate Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer for the Scripps Medical Foundation at Scripps Health. In this role, he leads financial strategy, operational planning, and revenue cycle performance for one of the region's largest physician organizations. Loop brings extensive experience in healthcare finance and operations, having held senior leadership roles across health systems, medical groups, and national healthcare organizations including UnitedHealth Group and OptumCare. Throughout his career, he has led initiatives focused on risk adjustment, revenue management, and operational performance improvement across complex healthcare environments. He holds a degree in accounting from Walla Walla University and is a Certified Public Accountant (inactive).

PETER LOPEZ-PEREZ

Cybersecurity Engagement Specialist



BACKGROUND

Peter L. is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist turned Learning Designer and Cybersecurity Engagement Specialist based in San Diego, California. With over a decade of experience at Sharp HealthCare, he blends clinical insight, leadership development, and digital learning strategy to help organizations build both emotional intelligence and cyber resilience. Currently serving as a Cybersecurity Engagement Specialist, Peter designs and delivers security awareness programs that empower employees to think critically, act responsibly, and safeguard their digital environments. His background in healthcare administration, virtual instructional design, and Crucial Accountability training enables him to translate complex topics into engaging, human-centered learning experiences.

Grounded in the belief that growth requires movement, Peter embraces adaptability as a core professional value. Throughout his career—as a therapist, clinical supervisor, and staff development leader—he has championed communication, anxiety management, and social connection as catalysts for individual and organizational success. He has led culture-building initiatives, increased leadership training engagement, implemented telehealth platforms, and supported diverse communities, including Latino professionals navigating career transitions. Passionate about lifelong learning and meaningful impact, Peter is dedicated to helping people think, feel, and act securely in an ever-evolving digital world.

ADRIENNE MARTINEZ-HOLLINGSWORTH, PHD, RN, PHN, WAN

Director of Research & Evaluation at AltaMed Institute for Health Equity



BACKGROUND

Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth, PhD, RN, PHN, WAN, is a nurse scientist, systems strategist, and bridge builder across clinicians, researchers, and policymakers. She currently serves as Director of Research & Evaluation at AltaMed Institute for Health Equity in Los Angeles, where she leads initiatives focused on improving care access and delivery in community health centers. A Registered Nurse with extensive experience in hospitals, utilization management, clinical research and technology companies, Adrienne's work centers on health equity, community health in disaster response, and strengthening evidence-based practice infrastructures. She also holds national leadership roles advancing research and evidence-based practice within professional nursing organizations.

With a PhD in Nursing Research from UCLA and postdoctoral training in health policy as a National Clinician Scholar, Adrienne integrates conceptual research and rigorous mixed-method approaches with practical systems change. A recipient of numerous honors including the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and the UCLA Dean's Scholar Award, she is committed to building research ecosystems that elevate community voice, cultivate diverse leadership, and translate evidence into meaningful, equitable impact.

ART MEJIA, MPA, FACHE

Vice President of Clinic Operations
San Ysidro Health

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Art Mejia joined San Ysidro Health in 2021, bringing with him over 24 years of progressive management experience within hospital-based services and medical group environments. With a broad range of expertise in many aspects of healthcare operations, such as clinical service delivery, service line-development, organizational accreditation, state licensing, healthcare finance, and strategic planning - Art leads Clinic Operations for San Ysidro Health which include the Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Ancillary, Health Promotion and Research divisions.



Art's passion for his work originates in his commitment to quality health and improved access to health for the underserved communities with whom he is privileged to work. Fully embracing the opportunity to improve healthcare for all patients, he brings energy and vision to our teams and a sincere commitment to developing and mentoring the future leaders of our healthcare industry.

Prior to San Ysidro Health, Art spent time working for various non-profit and for-profit healthcare organizations across Southern California. Spending valuable time amongst larger organizations such as Kaiser Permanente, Scripps Health, and Tenet Healthcare. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University and is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, having served as a prior Board Member for the San Diego Organization of Healthcare Leaders.

KENNETH ORTIZ, MD, MBA, FACHE

Associate Chief Medical Officer
East Region at San Ysidro Health



BACKGROUND

Kenneth Ortiz, MD, MBA, FACHE, is a physician and healthcare leader serving as Associate Chief Medical Officer, East Region at San Ysidro Health, where he helps advance clinical operations, quality, and patient-centered care across the region and organization-wide. In this role, he collaborates with medical staff and administrative leaders to strengthen care delivery and support strategic health initiatives. Prior to his current leadership responsibilities, Dr. Ortiz worked as a clinic medical director and family medicine physician, developing practice-level programs that improved patient access and care coordination. He is board-certified in family medicine and brings a clinical and operational perspective to health system leadership. Dr. Ortiz holds a medical degree from the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine in Honolulu, Hawaii and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in organizational leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, underscoring his ongoing commitment to high-quality clinical care and effective healthcare management.

TRACY PAGE, DNP, RN, PHN, LNC

District Director of Emergency Services, Trauma, and Rapid Response
Palomar Health



BACKGROUND

Dr. Tracy Page, DNP, RN, PHN, LNC, is a seasoned healthcare executive and clinical leader with nearly two decades of nursing experience and progressive leadership across emergency and trauma services. She currently serves as District Director of Emergency Services, Trauma, and Rapid Response at Palomar Health, where she drives operational excellence, performance management, and quality improvement initiatives. A Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certified through UC San Diego Extended Studies, Dr. Page is known for her expertise in collaborative problem solving, systems optimization, and leading high-performing clinical teams through complex organizational change.

LCDR EDWARD ROBERTS

Director for Resource Management/Comptroller
Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command
Camp Pendleton

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Upon completion of his Master in Health Services Administration degree from the George Washington University in July 2012, LCDR Roberts commissioned as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Medical Service Corps through the Health Services Collegiate Program. After serving as interim Executive Assistant for BUMED M2, he reported to Officer Development School. In October 2012, he checked on board U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka. He started his tour as the Command Data Quality Manager before working as the Assistant Department Head of Patient Administration. In August 2015, he transferred to Naval Hospital Bremerton

where he was the interim Head of the Medical Logistics department before transitioning into the Deputy Comptroller position. During his tour at Bremerton, he deployed to Role 3 Kandahar as the Medical Logistics Officer from March to October of 2017. In April 2019, he assumed responsibilities as the Comptroller at Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor where he served until April 2022 before checking in as the Director for Resource Management/Comptroller at U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, Naples Italy in April 2022. His current assignment began in July 2025 as the Director for Resource Management/Comptroller at Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Camp Pendleton, California.



JESSICA TAYLOR, MBA, PCC, FACHE

Founder of Coaching Coalition



BACKGROUND

Jessica Taylor, MBA, PCC, FACHE, is a business strategist and executive coach serving as founder of Coaching Coalition, where she supports high-achieving professionals navigating career transitions, leadership growth, and business development. In this role, she combines executive coaching with operational strategy to help clients make clear, values-aligned decisions and build sustainable careers or organizations. Taylor brings extensive experience in healthcare leadership, business strategy, and organizational growth, including senior leadership

CDR VI SONG TRING

Chief Medical Informatics Officer

Naval Medical Forces Pacific



BACKGROUND

CDR Vi Song Tring, DO, MHA, CPE, is currently serving as Chief Medical Informatics Officer for Naval Medical Forces Pacific. In this role, he advises senior leadership on health informatics strategy, electronic medical record governance, and data-driven clinical improvement across Navy Medicine facilities in the Pacific region. His career includes multiple leadership roles in operational medicine and clinical governance within the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. CDR Tring will serve as the next Chief Medical Officer at Naval Medical Center San Diego in July 2026. He earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Nova Southeastern University and a Master of Health Administration from USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.

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