



74th Annual Roy A. Bowers Conference

CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD FOR HEALTHCARE AND NAVIGATING WHAT'S NEXT

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November 10th, 2026 | The Palace at Somerset Park | 333 Davidson Ave

AGENDA

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, & NETWORKING

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

OPENING REMARKS

Saira Jan, MS, PharmD

Vice President & Chief Pharmacy Officer, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Professor Emerita, Rutgers University

Joseph A. Barone, PharmD, FCCP

Dean and Distinguished Professor

Rutgers, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Stephen Cha, MD

Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Human Services

The keynote address will explore New Jersey's evolving healthcare environment, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Dr. Cha will discuss the administration's priorities and the outcomes that will shape the next three years, while examining how technology, innovation, and new models of care can improve affordability, expand access, and enhance the quality of care for communities across the state. The keynote address will also consider how New Jersey can emerge as a national example of coordinated action and cross-sector collaboration in advancing healthcare transformation.

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Policy and Legislative Updates

Presenter:

Ipsita Smolinski, MBA, MPH

Founder & Managing Director, Capitol Street

Faculty, Georgetown University

Senior Strategic Advisor, McAllister & Quinn

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

BREAK & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

The Role of AI in Driving Healthcare Affordability, Access and Quality

Healthcare leaders are inundated with AI promises, but few conversations move past the hype to examine what's actually working. This panel brings together perspectives of payers, hospitals, policymakers, and technologists to ground the discussion in real implementations, not projections. Panelists will share specific use cases where AI has measurably impacted cost, access, or quality of care, along with the operational, regulatory, and technical hurdles they encountered along the way. Attendees will leave with a clear-eyed view of where AI is delivering results today, where it's falling short, and what it takes to scale these solutions responsibly across the healthcare system.

Moderator:

Heather Staples, MBA

Executive Vice President, Enterprise Operations, Business & Technology Solutions & Chief Information Officer, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Panelists:

Niall Brennan

Chief Data & Analytics Officer, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Rob Adamson, PharmD

Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer, RWJBarnabas Health

Bethany (Beth) Percha, PhD, MPH

Vice President, Chief Data and Analytics Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian

Alexander Ding, MD, MS, MBA, FACR

Chief Medical & Public Affairs Officer, DataSpring

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

LUNCH BREAK

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Current Pharmacy and Medical Trend Landscape

Explore the key pharmacy and medical trends shaping the market, including pipeline developments, accelerated approvals, pricing pressures, utilization patterns, biosimilars, and the evolving overlap between medical and pharmacy benefit management.

Presenter:

Scott Biggs

Director of Supplier Services, IQVIA

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM

BREAK & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Current Pharmacy and Medical Trend Landscape

Moderator:

Saira Jan, MS, PharmD

Vice President & Chief Pharmacy Officer, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Professor Emerita, Rutgers University

Panelists:

Linda Schwimmer, JD

President & CEO, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

Stephen Cutts, PharmD

Chief Clinical and Specialty Officer, Prime Therapeutics

Joshua Ardise, MD, MPH

Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Laura Balsamini, PharmD, BCPS

Chief Pharmacy Officer, Summit Health

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Saira Jan, MS, PharmD

Vice President & Chief Pharmacy Officer, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Professor Emerita, Rutgers University