

Women in Leadership, Medicine and Academics 2022

Speaker Biographies



Gladys Asiedu, Ph.D.

Gladys B. Asiedu, PhD is an Associate Consultant and an Assistant professor of health services research at the Mayo Clinic Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Center for the Science of Health Care Delivery. Her research utilizes innovative qualitative research approaches, practice improvement and implementation design to link micro and macro factors related to patient health and health systems, addressing disparities and inequities in workplace, patient, and community settings. Dr. Asiedu's recent work in health equity, diversity and inclusion space, include efforts to transform organizational culture and behavior in clinical spaces around racism and discrimination, while facilitating care providers ability to communicate about patients experiences of racism to enhance safe and supportive environment in patient care. She is one of the core leads for a newly launched Diversity Science Program at Mayo Clinic that will analyze, address, health care inequities and advance inclusive, equitable norms for organizational wellness and practice transformation.



Edwina Bhaskaran, R.N.

Edwina Bhaskaran is Mayo Clinic's first Chief Clinical Systems and Informatics Officer. She supports EMR operations & PMO, clinical education, HIMS, and informatics functions. She joined Mayo Clinic in May 2021 as the Chief Nursing Informatics Officer. Before joining Mayo Clinic, she was at CommonSpirit Health, one of the nation's most extensive Catholic nonprofit healthcare systems with over 1,000 care sites across 21 states. In this role, she led the Epic informatics responsibilities across five divisions with over 400 acute and ambulatory sites. Edwina's areas of expertise include clinical application implementations, healthcare strategic planning, and clinical transformation. Her experience includes being part of the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi IT Executive Team, where she held leadership positions in Informatics, Clinical Applications, and IT PMO & Strategy. She has experience working across the healthcare IT domain as a consultant, vendor, and healthcare provider. Edwina received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the Catholic University of America. Her master's degree in nursing and healthcare administration is from the University of Pennsylvania. She enjoys speaking to nursing students about healthcare IT and has spoken to nursing students in India and the Philippines. She enjoys time at home with Andrew, her husband of 16 years, and their two young children, Myah and Elijah.



Lynda Christel

Lynda M. Christel is an Operations Administrator for the Department of Neurologic Surgery and Department of Neurology at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL and is an Instructor of Health Care Administration in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. Before these roles, Lynda had served as an Operations Manager for the Department of Neurologic Surgery and proudly served as the site Administrator for the Office of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, AZ. She also served on the Executive Board of Directors and as Chair of Health Committee with Special Olympics Arizona. She's been married for 19 years and the mother of three teenagers.



Sue Cullinan, M.D.

Dr. Sue Cullinan is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. She is the chair of Emergency Medicine in the NWWI region where she has been practicing for 19 years. She also serves as the Chair of the Mayo Clinic Mortality Review Subcommittee. Dr. Cullinan obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She practiced as a nurse for 13 years before obtaining her Medical Degree, also at UND, with her Emergency Medicine residency at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN. In her free time, Dr. Cullinan enjoys spending time with her husband and 3 children. They enjoy downhill skiing, playing board games, reading, or relaxing at the lake.



Julia Files, M.D.

Julia A. Files, M.D., is board certified in Internal Medicine and is a Professor of Medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. She is noted for her expertise in women's health, hormone management and preventive health care for women. Before transitioning full-time to the Mayo Clinic Medallion program, Dr. Files served as chair of the Division of Women's Health in the Department of Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Arizona and as associate chair for Staff Development in the Department of Internal Medicine. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Academic Appointments and Promotions Committee and is the founder and chair of the board of directors for AMWA IGNITE a program for women medical students offered through the American Medical Women's Association. Dr. Files earned a B.S. degree in biology from the University of Arizona, Tucson, and an M.D. degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Banner Good Samaritan/Phoenix VA Medical Center in Phoenix. Subsequently, she was the chief resident in internal medicine at Maricopa Medical Center. Dr. Files is also Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine for the University of

Arizona College of Medicine. Dr. Files is married and the mother of three children.



Barbara Jordan, M.A.

Barbara Jordan is currently an Administrator at Mayo Clinic, where she has worked for 29 years. She has a dual assignment with leadership responsibility for the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science Office for Education Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion the Enterprise Office for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. Her role in the Office for Education Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is in support of the College of Medicine’s mission to advance the Mayo Clinic practice by providing recruitment, retention and advancement activities that target students from backgrounds that are underrepresented in science and medicine. Within the Enterprise Office for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity, Barbara and her teamwork with leaders, staff and key stakeholders to advance equity, inclusion and diversity across all Mayo Clinic sites and shields. Barbara has a broad and deep portfolio of community activities and advocacy. One of her proudest accomplishments is being part of a small group of community members who put forth the idea and developed the case statement for establishment of what was to become the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, Minnesota. She currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Branch of the NAACP, the Greater Rochester Arts Board and the Collider Foundation. Barbara has chaired the boards of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Diversity Council. She has also served on the boards of the Rochester Area Foundation, the Rochester Public Library Foundation, and she co- led one of the teams for Journey to Growth, an economic development initiative for Southeast Minnesota. Barbara is an Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. She holds a BA in English from Southern Methodist University and a Master’s in organizational management from Concordia University.



Jill Lenhart, M.D.

Dr. Jill Lenhart is a family medicine physician at Mayo Clinic Health System in Chippewa Falls, WI where she has practiced 24 years. She is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. In addition to patient care responsibilities, she serves as Chair of Mayo Midwest Primary Care Chair, where her leadership is focused on clinical improvement, practice development and strategic planning across multiple platforms in primary care. A North Dakota native, Dr. Lenhart received her undergraduate degree in Kinesiology at the University of Colorado, her Medical Degree at the University of North Dakota and completed her residency training in Eau Claire with the University of Wisconsin. Outside of medicine, Dr. Lenhart’s interests include spending time with family, daily walks in Irvine Park and volunteering as a founding member of “Hearts in Harmony”—a Chippewa Valley based nonprofit show choir for young adults with special needs.



Margaret Paulson, D.O.

Dr. Margaret Paulson is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. After completing her Internal Medicine residency and chief residency in Arizona, she returned to the Midwest where she currently practices Hospital Medicine in Northwest Wisconsin. She has been active in the American College of Physicians chapter in Wisconsin, serving as a Well-Being Champion for the state since 2018. In 2019, she became the Medical Director for Northwest Wisconsin in the exciting establishment of Mayo Clinic's Advanced Care at Home program, an innovative platform offering hospital-level care in the home. She lives in Menomonie with her husband, three inquisitive children and one very active pudel-pointer dog. In her spare time, she is driving her kids to activities or trying to kill invasive trees in the woods surrounding her home.



Sasha Shillcutt, M.D., MS, FASE

Sasha K. Shillcutt, MD, MS, FASE is a tenured and endowed Professor and the Vice Chair of Strategy in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Sasha CEO & Founder of Brave Enough, a well-published researcher in cardiac anesthesiology and gender equity, author, and international speaker. Sasha's greatest passion is empowering and encouraging others to achieve wellbeing in their professional and personal lives. She speaks frequently to executives and leaders on the topics of professional resilience and gender equity. Her TEDx talk titled *Resilience: The Art of Failing Forward* has been viewed by thousands of people. Her writing has been published in both the New England Journal of Medicine and JAMA. She leads conferences and retreats for professional women through her organization, Brave Enough. Her first book, *Between Grit and Grace: How to be Feminine and Formidable*, was released in February 2020.



Prathibha Varkey

Prathibha Varkey, MBBS, MPH, MHPE, MBA, MA (privatum), is president of the Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS). As president, Dr. Varkey leads 15,000 employees serving 16 community hospitals and 46 multispecialty clinics across 44 MCHS sites in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Dr. Varkey is also a Professor of Medicine and Preventive Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. Prior to her current role, Dr. Varkey served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Yale New Haven Health Northeast Medical Group, and as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Seton Clinical Enterprise. From 2001 to 2013, Dr. Varkey held leadership positions at Mayo Clinic in

Rochester, including Associate Chair of the Department of Medicine; medical director of Ask Mayo Clinic; program director of the Preventive Medicine Fellowship, and Director of the Quality Improvement Curriculum. A nationally recognized and expert in Quality Improvement, Dr. Varkey is a past president of the American College of Medical Quality, has authored over 80 publications and is the editor of two books: *Medical Quality Management* and *Mayo Clinic Board Review on Preventive Medicine and Public Health*. Dr. Varkey earned her MBBS from the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India; a Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health; a Masters of Health Professions Education from the University of Illinois, Chicago; and a Masters of Business Administration from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. She completed her internal medicine residency at the Yale New Haven Health Hospital of Saint Raphael and a preventive medicine fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She has an honorary Master of Arts degree from Yale University. Dr. Varkey and her husband, Pravin, have a young daughter and live in Rochester, Minnesota.