Artificial Intelligence Hearing

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

April 11, 2024

Peter J. Embí, MD, MS, FACP, FACMI, FAMIA, FIAHSI

Dr. Peter Embí is an internationally recognized researcher, educator, and leader in the field of clinical and translational research informatics, with numerous peer-reviewed publications and presentations describing his innovations in the field. His areas of interest include clinical informatics, research informatics, public health informatics, and data-driven learning health systems.

Dr. Embí serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics, Professor of Medicine, and Senior Vice-President for Research and Innovation at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Prior to assuming this role on Jan 1, 2022, he served as President and CEO of the Regenstrief Institute, Professor and Associate Dean for Informatics and Health Services Research at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Associate Director at Indiana CTSI and Vice President for Learning Health Systems at IU Health. Previous academic leadership roles included professorships and serving as the nation's first Chief Research Information Officer at The Ohio State University, and on the faculty of the University of Cincinnati, where he was the founding director of the UC Center for Health Informatics.

Dr. Embí is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, a Fellow of AMIA, and a Fellow of the International Association for Health Sciences Informatics. Among his other leadership roles, he was the Past President and Chair of the Board of Directors of AMIA. He also has served on many national advisory boards, including recently concluding service on the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Laura Biven, Integrated Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies Lead, Office of Data Science Strategy, NIH

Dr. Laura Biven leads the Integrated Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies (IIET) branch in the Office of Data Science Strategy (ODSS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She is responsible for strategic planning, coordination, and oversight of programs that integrate independently managed, cloud data resources across the NIH to advance NIH's vision for an integrated, FAIR biomedical data ecosystem. She also oversees multidisciplinary NIH-wide programs that focus on integrating computational, mathematical, and biomedical research communities around emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, (AI/ML) quantum computing, and digital twins.

Laura co-led the development and 2021 launch of NIH's flagship initiative in AI/ML and health equity- the Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD) program. She served as Acting Director, overseeing the launch of new fellowship programs, regionally based outreach and research partnerships, and pilot research activities at the intersection of AI/ML and health equity.

Troy Tazbaz, Director of Digital Health, FDA

Troy Tazbaz is Director of Digital Health Center of Excellence (DHCoE) at FDA. DHCoE within the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) is responsible for envisioning a future of safe and effective healthcare delivery with a focus on advancing public health goals with the use of technology. Troy Tazbaz is responsible for providing leadership in technology evaluation and integration into clinical care, policy development to establish digital health guidelines, and strategic public-private institution partnerships.

John S. Brownstein, Ph.D
SVP, Chief Innovation Officer
Boston Children's Hospital
Professor, Harvard Medical School

John Brownstein, Ph.D is a Professor of Biomedical Informatics at Harvard Medical School and the SVP and Chief Innovation Officer of Boston Children's Hospital. He also directs the Computational Epidemiology Lab and the Innovation and Digital Health Accelerator both at Boston Children's. He was trained as an epidemiologist at Yale University. Overall, his work aims to have translation impact on the surveillance, control and prevention of disease. He has been at the forefront of the development and application of AI, data mining and citizen science to public health. His efforts including the platforms Vaccines.gov, Global.health and HealthMap are in use by millions of consumers each year and have been recognized by the National Library of Congress and the Smithsonian. In addition to research achievements, this translational impact comes from playing an advisory role to numerous agencies on real-time public health surveillance and AI including HHS, DHS, FDA, DOD, CDC, WHO and the White House. He was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government to outstanding scientists, the Lagrange Prize for international achievements in complexity sciences and an Emmy for his contributions to medical reporting during the covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Brownstein is co-founder of digital health companies Epidemico and Circulation and an ABC Medical News Contributor. He has authored over 300 peer-reviewed articles on epidemiology and public health.

Short bio

John Brownstein, Ph.D is Professor of Pediatrics and Biomedical Informatics at Harvard Medical School and is the SVP and Chief Innovation Officer of Boston Children's Hospital. He has been at the forefront of the development and application of AI, data mining and citizen science to public health. His efforts including the platforms Vaccines.gov, Global.health and HealthMap are in use by millions each year and have been recognized by the National Library of Congress and the Smithsonian. He advised numerous agencies on real-time public health surveillance and AI including HHS, DHS, FDA, DOD, CDC, WHO and the White House. He was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the Lagrange Prize for achievements in complexity sciences and an Emmy for his medical reporting at ABC News. He has authored over 300 peer-reviewed articles on data science and epidemiology.

Gil Alterovitz, PhD, FACMI, FAMIA

Director, VA National Artificial Intelligence Institute (NAII) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Chief AI Officer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Gil Alterovitz is Director of the VA National Artificial Intelligence Institute (NAII) and VHA Chief AI Officer. He has a PhD in electrical and biomedical engineering from MIT. Throughout his career, Dr. Alterovitz has worked on national and international collaborative initiatives for developing and applying AI approaches from research to point-of-care. He serves as an internationally-recognized subject matter expert in the field.

As the NAII director, Dr. Alterovitz has worked to help VA develop AI R&D capacity in the Office of Research and Development and toward enabling AI for operations for Veteran care. The NAII also brought together 20+ offices to develop the VA AI Strategy and collaborated across the agency to establish the Trustworthy AI Framework. Dr. Alterovitz is one of the core authors of The National AI R&D Strategic Plan produced by the White House Office of Science Technology Policy in 2019 and updated in 2023. In addition, he is on faculty at Harvard Medical School. He has produced over 80 peer-reviewed publications and four books, including two bestsellers. Dr. Alterovitz has been an international Fulbright awardee twice- once to Canada and a second time to the UK as a Fulbright Scholar.

Rachel (Rae) Walker, PhD, RN, FAAN
Associate Professor & Nursing PhD Program Director, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Rae Walker is a nurse scientist and Registered Nurse with over 16 years of experience including oncology and gerontological nursing in both hospital and home-based settings, rural cancer patient navigation, and disaster response. Following service in the U.S. Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa, they completed their nursing training, PhD, Certificates in Nursing Education and Health Inequities, and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. They were an inaugural member of the American Nurses Association's Innovation Advisory Board and the only nurse Invention Ambassador for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and Co-Chair of the Nursing Education and Artificial Intelligence Task Force, they inform national policy via service on Expert Panels for Health Equity, Nursing Informatics and Technology, and LGBTQ+ Health. They currently direct the Nursing PhD Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where they are Associate Director for the IALS Center for Personalized Monitoring and recently co-founded Health Tech for the People, a multidisciplinary research group focused on tech ethics and accountable design. They teach courses on data narratives, health measurement and power, and their scholarship focuses on community-directed health innovation, and digital defense against technologies and data regimes that may cause harm. Their advocacy more inclusive and care worker-informed invention ecosystems has been featured on numerous podcasts, the TEDx stage, and in magazines such as Forbes, Scientific American, Science and on NPR.

Inioluwa Deborah Raji, Researcher, UC Berkeley

Deborah is a Mozilla fellow and CS PhD student at University of California, Berkeley, who is interested in questions on algorithmic auditing and evaluation. In the past, she worked closely with the Algorithmic Justice League initiative to highlight bias in deployed AI products. She has also worked with Google's Ethical AI team and been a research fellow at the Partnership on AI and AI Now Institute at New York University working on various projects to operationalize ethical considerations in ML engineering practice. Recently, she was named to Forbes 30 Under 30, MIT Tech Review 35 Under 35 Innovators and TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI.

Maia Hightower, MD, MPH, MBA

CEO and Co-Founder, Equality AI

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Dr. Maia Hightower, MD, MPH, MBA is the CEO and Founder of Equality AI, and former EVP, Chief Digital Transformation Officer at University of Chicago Medicine. She is a leading voice in the intersection of healthcare, digital transformation, and health equity. She is a champion for responsible AI, ensuring that the digital future of healthcare is equitable and just.

Equality AI provides AI safety and management technology for healthcare. Our tools identify and mitigate bias in AI applications. We combine technology with AI governance capacity building, audit and monitoring to achieve health equity goals. Thus, enabling healthcare systems to realize the total value of their AI investments. We empower healthcare with trustworthy AI and quality care for all.

She is a 4-time C-suit physician executive with fifteen years of executive leadership spanning healthcare IT, medical affairs, and population health across four academic medical centers, clinically integrated networks, and healthcare technology companies.

She is an internationally sought after speaker on responsible AI and digital health equity for academic, government, consumer, and industry audiences.

Dr. Hightower received her BA at Cornell University, MD, and MPH, from the University of Rochester School of Medicine, followed by residencies in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego. She also holds an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Alexandra Valladares, Community Representative, Comunidad de Durham, Health AI Partnership (HAIP)

Alexandra Valladares is a dedicated community organizer and strong advocate for equity in health and education. She actively participates in health equity and digital health innovation through the Health AI Partnership, where she works with a dedicated team so that community perspectives, particularly those of marginalized populations, are represented in best practices for AI use in healthcare.

Alexandra's expertise lies in her unique blend of skills and experiences, including community organizing, patient support, and AI advocacy. She has successfully advocated for public institutions to address the needs of underserved populations and has a deep commitment to improving the patient experience.

Alexandra thrives as a bridge builder, cultivating relationships and understanding across domains to improve institutional services and help shape policy and improve healthcare.

She actively works in grassroots efforts, public service, healthcare, and research and is committed to the equitable advancement of digital health technologies in healthcare.

Dominic H. Mack, MD, MBA
Professor Family Medicine,
Director National Center for Primary Care,
Morehouse School of Medicine

BIO

Dominic Hugo Mack is a Professor of Family Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and serves as Director of the National Center for Primary Care (NCPC). Dominic leads NCPC's promotion of health equity and population health through the development of strategies to further research, innovations and trainings that advance primary care systems. NCPC concentrates program development in four areas: Big Data Health Equity Research, Health Policy, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment, and Digital Health. He is the Principal Investigator and Director of the National COVID-19 Resiliency Network (NCRN), an Office of Minority Health cooperative agreement with MSM. Dominic is founder and past president of Mack Medical Consultants, a health advisory company dedicated to the improvement of business practices in medical organizations. Dr. Mack has practiced in Georgia for many years and served in various local, state, and national leadership roles within non-profit and for-profit organizations including service in the US Federally Qualified Health Center system. Dominic strives to develop national partnerships in rural and urban communities to implement equitable and sustainable community-based interventions for better health outcomes for all people.
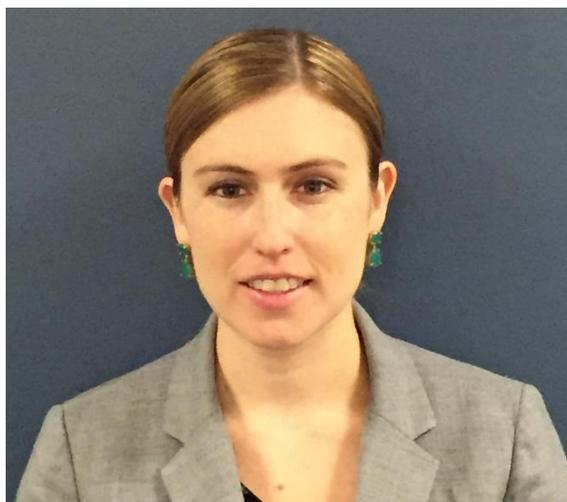
Ashley Beecy, MD, FACC, Medical Director, AI Operations NewYork-Presbyterian

Dr. Beecy provides leadership in key areas including the governance, processes, and infrastructure to ensure the effective and safe deployment of AI. She is responsible for NYP's largest enterprise-wide AI initiative in collaboration with Cornell Tech and Cornell University and serves as a subject matter expert on multiple national AI collaboratives.

Dr. Beecy is also an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at Weill Cornell Medicine, where she leads the informatics work across the cardiovascular service line. She has a passion for taking a learning health system approach to improve healthcare delivery. Her research focus is on digital health and informatics, including the use of AI models for the early detection of cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Beecy completed her undergraduate work in computer engineering. She holds a medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed an Internal Medicine residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine. She completed her fellowship training in cardiovascular diseases at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine and is board certified in internal medicine, cardiology and clinical informatics. Prior to a career in healthcare, Dr. Beecy spent a decade working in industry. She has consulted for a range of healthcare companies and participated as a board member to advise on strategy and operations.

Samantha Burch, Vice President, Technology Public Policy, AHIP

Samantha (Sam) Burch is Vice President of Technology Public Policy for AHIP where she is responsible for leading policy development, strategy, and advocacy related to health care technology, data interoperability, privacy, and security. In this role, Sam presents AHIP member views to external audiences, Administration officials, and congressional staff and represents AHIP as a thought leader at internal and external meetings and conferences.

Prior to joining AHIP, Sam served as Director of Government Relations for OCHIN. She has also held senior health IT policy and advocacy roles at the American Hospital Association, HIMSS, and the Federation of American Hospitals. Early in her career, Sam spent time on Capitol Hill as a healthcare aide and press secretary for a Member of Congress.

Sam received a Master of Arts degree in government from the Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations from The Ohio State University.

Christopher A. Longhurst, MD, MS
Chief Medical Officer and Chief Digital Officer, UC San Diego Health
Associate Dean and Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, UC San Diego School of Medicine
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Christopher Longhurst MD, MS, is the chief medical officer (CMO) and chief digital officer (CDO) at UC San Diego Health. This unique dual and complementary role provides leadership to medical staff, ensuring that standards and protocols are in place to provide the highest quality of care to patients, and positions digital transformation as a key tool in these efforts. As the executive Director for the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Center for Health Innovation, Dr. Longhurst also has responsibility for the artificial intelligence (AI) portfolio across the health system, managed through the development and hire of the inaugural Chief AI Officer for UC San Diego Health.

Within the UC San Diego School of Medicine, Dr. Longhurst serves as an associate dean to help align education and research missions within the clinical environment and lead the journey to become a highly reliable, learning health system. As a faculty member in the Departments of Biomedical Informatics and Pediatrics, Dr. Longhurst also maintains an active clinical practice as a newborn hospitalist and vigorously pursues scholarship in care quality, patient safety, and informatics, especially healthcare AI.