

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

“The _____ (Doctor/Nurse/Other) Will See You Now”:
Rethinking Scope of Practice

July 17, 2013

KAVITA PATEL is a fellow in the Economic Studies program and managing director for clinical transformation and delivery at the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution. Dr. Patel is also a practicing primary care internist at Johns Hopkins Medicine. She served in the Obama Administration as director of policy for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement in the White House. As a senior aide to Valerie Jarrett, President Obama’s senior advisor, Dr. Patel played a critical role in policy development and evaluation of policy initiatives connected to health reform, financial regulatory reform, and economic recovery issues. Dr. Patel also served on the staff of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. As deputy staff director on health, she served as a policy analyst and aide to the senator, and was part of the senior staff of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee under Sen. Kennedy’s leadership. She also worked as a researcher at the RAND Corporation and as a practicing physician in both California and Oregon. She is a previous Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center, and her master’s in public health from the University of California Los Angeles.

GERALDINE “POLLY” BEDNASH, was appointed executive director of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in December 1989. Dr. Bednash oversees the educational, research, governmental affairs, publications, and other programs of the organization. Before that, Dr. Bednash headed the association’s legislative and regulatory advocacy programs as director of government affairs. In that post since 1986, she directed AACN’s efforts to secure strong federal support for nursing education and research, coordinated new initiatives with federal agencies and with major foundations, and co-authored AACN’s landmark study of the financial costs to students and to clinical agencies of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education. She currently serves as chair of the Nursing Alliance for Quality Care, as a member of the Sullivan Alliance to Transform the Health Professions and is a member of the Quality Alliance Steering Committee. She has been appointed to the Secretary’s Academic Affiliations Council of the Veteran’s Administration. She has served on multiple boards and commissions. Before joining AACN, Dr. Bednash was assistant professor at the School of Nursing at George Mason University and a Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Faculty Fellow in Primary Care at the University of Maryland. Her experience includes development of resource policy for the Geriatric Research, Evaluation, and Clinical Centers of the Veterans Administration; serving as a nurse practitioner and consultant to the family practice residency program at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and service as an Army Nurse Corps staff nurse in Vung Tau, Vietnam. Additionally, Dr. Bednash served as the first chair of the board for the Association Mutual Health Insurance Company. Dr. Bednash received her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Texas Woman’s University, master of science in nursing from The Catholic University of America, and doctorate in higher education policy and law from the University of Maryland. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and member of nursing’s national honor society, Sigma Theta Tau International.

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REID BLACKWELDER, a family physician in Kingsport, Tennessee, is president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Previously, he served three years as a member of the AAFP Board of Directors. As president-elect, Blackwelder advocates on behalf of family physicians and patients nationwide to inspire positive change in the U.S. health care system. Outside the AAFP, he serves as director of the Medical Student Education Division for the Department of Family Medicine at East Tennessee State University's (ETSU) James H. Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, Tennessee, where he is also a professor of family medicine. He previously served as program director of the Kingsport Family Medicine Residency Program of ETSU for more than 13 years, and he remains on faculty at the residency. A member of the AAFP since 1980, Dr. Blackwelder has served on and chaired numerous committees and commissions whose work has focused on continuing professional development and education. In 2008, the AAFP awarded him its Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award. A member of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians (TNAFP) since 1992, Dr. Blackwelder served in several positions, including president. He has been a member of the board of directors for more than 10 years. He represented the chapter at the AAFP Congress of Delegates beginning in 2002, until his election to the AAFP Board of Directors. In 2008, the TNAFP awarded Dr. Blackwelder its prestigious John S. Derryberry Distinguished Service Award. In addition to caring for patients and serving in leadership roles for the AAFP, he has dedicated a significant amount of his time to teaching medical students and residents. He has earned several awards from his local Caduceus Club, the Humanism in Medicine Award from the New Jersey Health Foundation and the Dean's Teaching Award from ETSU. Additionally, he was named Outstanding Family Medicine Attending Physician of the Year numerous times and was selected Mentor of the Year in 2001 and 2010 by the ETSU medical students.