



From Skepticism to Possibility: Californians' Views on AI in Health Care

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Speaker Biographies



Kara Carter, MBA, MSc, is Senior Vice President of Strategy and Programs at the California Health Care Foundation, where she develops strategies, provides overall guidance, and leads the program teams in the development, execution, and assessment of CHCF's work. In this role, Carter provides thought leadership and support to CHCF's grantmaking programs and priorities, as well as CHCF's program-related investments and its learning and impact functions.

Before joining CHCF, Carter was a partner at McKinsey & Company's San Francisco and London offices. She was a leader in McKinsey's Medicaid practice in the US and supported public and private sector health systems in the US, UK, and Europe to improve quality, access, and affordability.

Before joining McKinsey, Carter worked for UK-based philanthropic institutions on a broad range of topics related to poverty and community action. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, a master's in social anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a master's in business administration from the London Business School. Carter currently serves on the UC Davis Health National Advisory Board.



Stella Tran is a senior program investment officer the California Health Care Foundation. She works on the Innovation Fund team, which invests in technology and services companies that improve access and quality of care in California. In addition to new investments and portfolio management, she leads CHCF's strategy in artificial intelligence.

Before joining CHCF, Stella was an investment manager at Acumen America, where she invested in early-stage companies that removed the barriers to opportunity, mobility, and prosperity for Americans

with low incomes. In her role, she led investments in health care, financial services, and workforce development, as well as designed strategic initiatives, including Acumen's Medicaid Innovation Collaborative. Stella has also served as the impact investing vertical lead for the Emerging Venture Capital Association. Before Acumen, Stella focused on building the field for social enterprises and impact investing, with roles at Just Business, The Miller Center for Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara, and The Ayllu Initiative. Stella holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting and information systems from Santa Clara University, where she was awarded the Miller Center's Global Social Benefit Fellowship.



Michele Cordoba is the Founding Director of Culture IQ, a full-service market research and strategic communications firm dedicated to amplifying the voices of multicultural consumers and voters and delivering actionable insights to companies, policymakers, candidates, and campaigns. She is a skilled researcher in both English and Spanish, with expertise in issue advocacy, message development and consumer engagement.

Michele brings a unique perspective to the research world from her work in media and entertainment as an Emmy-award winning producer. Prior to founding Culture IQ, Michele led consumer insights, marketing and promotions efforts for top Spanish-language networks Telemundo and Univision. She is passionate about empowering underrepresented communities and ensuring their voices are heard.

Michele received her BA in Spanish at Scripps College, and a master's from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird). She's a political news enthusiast, an advocate and ally, and a proud mom to two adult children. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband.



Ana Fernández-Rockwell is a seasoned marketing professional with over 20 years of expertise specializing in the U.S. Hispanic market. Her journey has encompassed diverse roles, including media planning and buying, copywriting, and media sales. Ana's bilingual and bicultural background, combined with her experiences living in Los Angeles, Miami, and New York, provides her with a unique perspective and deep

understanding of multicultural markets.

Ten years ago, Ana discovered her true passion within the marketing realm: research and direct interactions with Hispanic consumers. She pursued this passion by becoming a Riva-certified focus group moderator. Since then, she has conducted numerous studies among a wide range of demographics, including voters, shoppers, patients and healthcare professionals, educators, and multi-generational families.

A Costa Rican native, Ana received her undergraduate degree in Political Science at the University of California – Los Angeles, is an avid reader of both Spanish and English fiction and loves to cook French food. She currently lives in Miami with her husband, two dogs and two rescue cats.



Sonia Tucker, MBA, serves as the Vice President of Population Health at San Ysidro Health. She is a physician trained in Venezuela and holds a master's degree in business administration, specializing in process improvement and healthcare administration. With two decades of experience, Sonia has worked on epidemiological research and the implementation of health promotion and quality improvement programs, focusing on underserved communities through a population health approach.

Her background includes work in infectious disease epidemiology, screening, and addressing health disparities for chronic conditions, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and preventive services for various populations, both here and abroad. Sonia has helped develop and manage programs focused on social determinants of health, utilizing technology to connect individuals with essential resources and applying data-driven approaches for risk assessment and program Administration.

She has advanced research on health services use and technology integration to improve treatment adherence for diseases like diabetes and hepatitis and developed programs that engage populations historically underrepresented in biomedical research, including southeast African and southeast Asian communities. During the pandemic, she led major initiatives for COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and care equity for underserved families in San Diego County.

Passionate about process improvement, integration, and efficiency in population health, Sonia provides executive-level leadership at San Ysidro Health where she partners with key directors to oversee patient engagement, risk management, access, and quality.



Alifia Hasan, MBA, is an Innovation Portfolio Manager at Duke Institute for Health Innovation (DIHI) and is the Project Lead at Health AI Partnership (HAIP), leading the project management and implementation of externally funded projects. These projects bring together domain experts, community representatives, and academic leaders to cultivate an ecosystem that promotes safe, effective, and responsible diffusion of AI/ML in healthcare. Her other projects use innovative data science techniques to help solve challenging clinical problems. Together with the DIHI team, she hopes to build products that use technology to create value for patients.

Alifia is a pharmacist by training from India and completed her MBA at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University in 2019. She has worked in academic research administration for ten years at Duke and Stanford Medical Schools. Before joining DIHI, Alifia managed clinical research operations for Duke's Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences. Alifia's long-term goal is to leverage technology to improve patient care by making healthcare more equitable, effective, and safe.

Outside DIHI, she enjoys traveling to new places with her husband and two daughters. On quiet mornings, she loves to muse about world-changing ideas with a hot cup of ginger tea and Sufi music.