

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Susan Dentzer

Susan Dentzer is Senior Policy Adviser to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy focused on health and health care in the United States. In this role, she works closely with foundation leaders to carry out the organizational mission of improving the health and health care of all Americans.

One of the nation's most respected health and health policy thought leaders and journalists, Ms. Dentzer also is an on-air analyst on health issues on the PBS *NewsHour*. From 2008 to 2013, she served as editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs*, the nation's leading peer-reviewed journal of health policy, and led the transformation of that journal from a bimonthly academic publication into a highly topical publication and website with more than 120 million page views annually. From 1998 to 2008, she led the PBS *NewsHour*'s health unit as on-air health correspondent, and was the recipient of numerous honors and awards.

Ms. Dentzer is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the Council on Foreign Relations. She is a public member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Medical Specialties and a member of the board of directors of Research!America, which works to advance research to improve health. Ms. Dentzer graduated from Dartmouth, is a trustee emerita of Dartmouth and former Chair of the Dartmouth Board of Trustees. She serves on the Board of Overseers of Dartmouth Medical School. She, her husband, Charles Alston, and their three children live in Chevy Chase, Maryland.



Nora D. Volkow, MD

Nora D. Volkow, MD, is the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health, a position she has held since May 2003. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction.

Dr. Volkow's work has been instrumental in demonstrating that drug addiction is a disease of the human brain. As a research psychiatrist and scientist, Dr. Volkow pioneered the use of brain imaging to investigate the toxic effects and addictive properties of abusable drugs. Her studies have documented changes in the dopamine system affecting, among others, the functions of frontal brain regions involved with motivation, drive, and pleasure in addiction. She also has made important contributions to the neurobiology of obesity, ADHD, and aging.

Dr. Volkow spent most of her professional career at the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in Upton, New York, where she held several leadership positions, including Director of Nuclear Medicine, Chair of the Medical Department, and Associate Director for Life Sciences. In addition, Dr. Volkow was a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Associate Dean of the Medical School at the State University of New York (SUNY)-Stony Brook.

Dr. Volkow has published more than 580 peer-reviewed articles and written more than 90 book chapters and non-peer reviewed manuscripts. She also has edited three books on neuroimaging for mental and addictive disorders. During her professional career, she has been the recipient of multiple awards, which include being named a Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (Sammies)

finalist in 2013 and being inducted into the Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) Hall of Fame. She was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine in the National Academy of Sciences and received the International Prize from the French Institute of Health and Medical Research for her pioneering work in brain imaging and addiction science. She has been named one of *Time Magazine's* "Top 100 People Who Shape Our World" and was included as one of the 20 people to watch by *Newsweek* magazine in its "Who's Next in 2007" feature. She also was included in *Washingtonian Magazine's* 2009 and 2011 list of the "100 Most Powerful Women" and named "Innovator of the Year" by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2000.

Born in Mexico, Dr. Volkow attended the Modern American School, and earned her medical degree from the National University of Mexico in Mexico City, where she received the *Robins* award for best medical student of her generation. Her psychiatric residency was at New York University, where she earned the *Laughlin Fellowship Award* as one of the Ten Outstanding Psychiatric Residents in the USA.



Deborah Chatman Bryant, DNP, RN

Debbie Chatman Bryant, DNP, RN, is Director of Partnerships for Healthcare Quality Research at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she provides oversight for translational research efforts between the academic medical center and a Federally Qualified Health Center for clinical quality improvement and delivery. Dr. Bryant also is the Director of Outreach and Community Relations at the Hollings Cancer Center, MUSC, and an adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor in the MUSC College of Nursing.

Dr. Bryant has extensive leadership experience in community health, particularly with underserved populations. She is respected for her work in building community partnerships by leading awareness efforts and facilitating quality improvement projects to increase access to health and cancer care. She ensures practice standards are met while delivering safe and effective cancer screening and follow-up services. Dr. Bryant was recognized for her perseverance and innovation in executing strategies that respect and engage diverse communities as active participants in realistic and practical steps to improve health and health outcomes. She is known for her commitment to improving processes, engaging stakeholders, and energizing individuals and organizations to improve health while simultaneously mentoring nursing and other graduate students in their professional growth and development to ensure a culturally diverse workforce is ready to meet future health care needs.

Dr. Bryant was honored as a 2012 recipient of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Award. She also is a 2014 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow and past President of the Tri-County Black Nurses Association, a local affiliate of the National Black Nurses Association. Dr. Bryant is a member of the Avon Foundation for Women – Access to Care Advisory Committee, the National Patient Navigation Leadership Consortium, and the American Cancer Society's Southeastern Region African American Volunteer Leadership Advisory Group. She also serves as a member of the Quality Improvement Committee for the largest and oldest Medicaid managed care organization in South Carolina. In 2011, Dr. Bryant was named an American Cancer Society Scholar in Nursing Practice. She has been acknowledged as a "Woman of Achievement," with awards in community service from fraternal, civic, and social organizations in her community for her leadership, compassion, and professionalism. She continues to be recognized for her extraordinary contributions, and in 2012, was featured in *Ebony's* online magazine.