

Illinois Risk Management Services

# Risk Management Game Changers

41st Annual Risk Managers' Meeting

September 18 - 19 | Marriott Bloomington-Normal

## Speaker Guide



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We want to thank the sponsors of this meeting.  
It is with their support that we are able to bring nationally  
recognized speakers to you.



# Overview

New and innovative technologies and approaches are transforming healthcare. This in-person meeting offers thought-provoking information for risk managers, attorneys, physicians, nurses and hospital leaders to consider. Healthcare and legal experts will be sharing their knowledge, resources and tools to support healthcare professionals and organizations in reducing risk and liability exposure.

## Speakers

Thursday, September 18th



### Albert Wu, MD, MPH

*Director, Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research*

Dr. Wu is Professor of Health Policy and Management and Medicine, with joint appointments in epidemiology, International Health, Medicine and Surgery. He received BA and MD degrees from Cornell University, and completed an Internal Medicine residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital and UC San Diego. His research and teaching focus on patient outcomes and quality of care. [Read more](#)

### Aaron Lundberg, MSW

*President and CEO, Praesidium*

Aaron Lundberg works with leadership of large-scale human service organizations across the US to develop, implement, and monitor abuse prevention policies and training programs. He supervises Praesidium's team of account managers and has trained thousands of direct care workers, supervisors, administrators, and parents in preventing the sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults. With a bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas Tech University and a master's degree in social work from The University of Texas at Arlington, Lundberg has conducted extensive research in the etiology, scope, and prevention of abuse in residential treatment centers.



### Nikhilesh Rao

*CEO, Dexur*

Nikhilesh Rao is an accomplished entrepreneur and business leader based in Miami, Florida. As the Founder and CEO of both Gridlex and Dexur, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to innovation in management consulting and custom computer programming services. His extensive experience spans over two decades, beginning with his role in management consulting at Booz and Company. Nikhilesh holds dual MBA degrees from NYU Stern School of Business and Melbourne Business School, equipping him with a solid foundation in business strategy and operations. Known for his visionary leadership, he has successfully led startups that focus on enhancing operational efficiency and quality in the healthcare sector. His unique approach combines technology with tailored solutions to meet diverse client needs. Nikhilesh is passionate about leveraging technology to drive business growth and improve service delivery.



## Derek M. Stikeleather, JD

*Partner, Goodell DeVries*

Mr. Derek Stikeleather chairs the Appellate Practice Group at Goodell DeVries. He practices primarily in appellate advocacy and complex litigation, often as national appellate counsel for clients responding to nuclear verdicts. Derek has vast experience in commercial disputes and defending medical malpractice, product liability, and class action claims.

Derek is currently leading the multi-firm appellate team challenging a \$261 million verdict against a Florida children's hospital. The high-profile case was featured in the Netflix movie 'Take Care of Maya.' It is the second time Derek has challenged a final judgement that exceeds \$200 million. [Read more](#)

## Tammy Gamrat, RN, BS, CPHRM

*Senior Risk Management Consultant, IRMS*

Tammy joined IRMS in 2001 as a risk management consultant. She has a well-rounded background in hospital-based risk management, infection control, and staff education, as well as emergency, obstetrical, medical-surgical, critical care, office practice, and correctional nursing. She is a respected resource and presenter for topics related to healthcare risk and mitigation thereof.

Tammy has been a Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management since 2001. She received her Bachelor's degree in Physiology from Southern Illinois University—Carbondale, and her nursing diploma from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing, Evansville IN.



## Jillian Book, JD

*Senior Claims & Litigation Supervisor, IRMS*

Jillian joined IHA in June 2024, after just shy of 18 years spent as a practicing defense attorney in the fields of medical malpractice, long-term care, and premises liability. She currently oversees claims for hospitals and long-term care facilities within the Illinois Provider Trust, physicians insured by Medical Alliance Insurance Company, and provides oversight and support for self-insure hospitals under Illinois Risk Management Services. Jill obtained her undergraduate degree in criminal and social justice from Lewis University in Romeoville in 2003. She then attended law school at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota and has been a licensed attorney in Illinois since 2006.



## Ben Patterson, JD

*Partner, Hall Prangle LLC*

Ben Patterson is a founding member and senior partner of Hall Prangle. His exceptional track record of success at trial has played a crucial role in establishing the firm's reputation as a courtroom powerhouse. Since Hall Prangle opened its doors in 2002, Ben has tried over 45 medical malpractice jury trials in three states. He has secured dozens of defense verdicts on behalf of hospitals and healthcare professionals in Illinois, Nevada, and Florida. [Read more](#)

# Speakers

Friday, September 19th



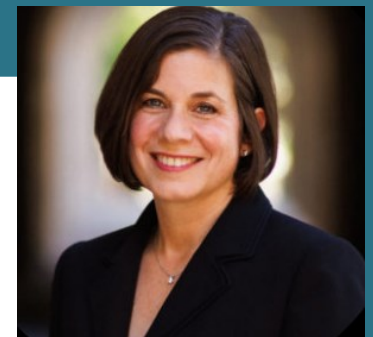
## Merage Ghane, PhD

*Director of Responsible AI in Health, The Coalition for Healthcare AI (CHI)*

Before joining CHAI, Merage was a principal behavioral Designer at ideas42, focusing on AI and ML in Health. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Science/ Psychology from Virginia Tech, where she applied computational and machine learning methods to study how the brain processes uncertainty during decision-making. Dr. Ghane continued this research as a postdoctoral associate at the

University of Pittsburgh's Department of Psychiatry investigating the clinical neuroscience of approach-avoidance behaviors and how individual differences in uncertainty processing affect these behaviors.

[Read more](#)



## Michelle Mello, JD, PhD

*Professor of Health Law, Professor of Law Stanford Law School*

Michelle Mello is a leading empirical health law scholar whose research is focused on understanding the effects of law and regulation on health care delivery and population health outcomes. She holds a joint appointment at the Stanford University School of Medicine in the Department of Health Policy. [Read more](#)



## Tatum O'Sullivan, RN, MHSA CPHRM, DFASHRM, CPPS

*Healthcare Loss Control Expert, Munich Re Specialty*

Tatum O'Sullivan has a background in nursing and over a decade of experience in healthcare risk management. As the former ASHRM President and recipient of the Paulette L. Gagnon Award, she has held leadership roles at both national and chapter levels, contributing extensively through publications, presentations, and committee service.