



2025 ILLINOIS RURAL AND SMALL-TOWN HEALTH SUMMIT

## **HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE:**

Learnings and Transformation in a  
Post-Pandemic Environment

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Professional Development Conference

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025 | 7:30 am – 4:30 pm**

Memorial Learning Center | 228 W Miller St | Springfield



**SIU** SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE

PRESENTED BY

**SIU School of Medicine Department of Population Science & Policy**

**SIU Simmons Law School**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

To register, visit [siumed.edu/cpd](https://siumed.edu/cpd)

(In the drop-down under 'Learners', select 'Conferences')



## 2025 ILLINOIS RURAL AND SMALL-TOWN HEALTH SUMMIT

Professional Development Conference | October 15, 2025

**HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE:**  
Learnings and Transformation in a  
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7:30 am - 8:00 am

### Check-in and Continental Breakfast

8:00 am - 8:30 am

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

**John M. Flack, MD, MPH, FAHA, FASH, MACP, CHS**

Chair, Department of Population Science and Policy; Professor and Chair, Department of Internal Medicine

**Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH**

Dean and Provost, SIU School of Medicine; CEO, SIU Medicine

**Angela Upchurch, JD**

Acting Dean and Professor of Law, SIU Simmons Law School

8:30 am - 9:30 am

### Keynote Speaker

**John Simmons, JD**

Chair, Simmons Hanly Conroy

9:30 am - 9:45 am

### Break

9:45 am - 11:15 am

### The Post-Pandemic Primary Care Workforce: Challenges and Resilience

**Iris Wesley, BA**

CEO, SIU Medicine Federally Qualified Health Center

**William Dixon, MD**

Associate Professor of Family & Community Medicine, Residency Program Director, Quincy

**Akshra Verma, MD**

Associate Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine, Ambulatory Section Chief

**Sandra Yockey, MD**

Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

**Jennifer Rose, MD**

Associate Professor of Family & Community Medicine, Carbondale; Director, Lincoln Scholars Program

**Donald Diemer, DHS, PA-C**

Chair, Physician Associate Medicine; Professor of Family & Community Medicine, Carbondale

**Moderator: Janet Albers, MD**

Chair, Department of Family & Community Medicine

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

### Grounded & Growing: Workforce Solutions from Illinois Rural Hospitals

**Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, BA**

State Government Affairs Manager, National Rural Health Association

**Honorable William Hauter, MD**

State Representative, R-87<sup>th</sup> District, Morton

**Moderator: Christopher McDowell, MD, MBA, MEd**

Executive Associate Dean, SIU School of Medicine; Professor, Emergency Medicine

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

### Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### Grounded & Growing: Workforce Solutions from Illinois Rural Hospitals

**Dolan Dalpoas, MPH**

President and CEO, Lincoln Memorial Hospital

**Alison Sours, MBA**

COO, Graham Health Network

**Moderator: Tracy Warner, BS**

Executive Director, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### Behavioral Health Workforce Center Panel

**Honorable Laura Fine**

State Senator, D-9<sup>th</sup> District; Chair, Senate Behavioral and Mental Health Committee

**Honorable Lindsey LaPointe**

State Representative, D-19<sup>th</sup> District; Chair, House Mental Health and Addiction Committee

**Moderator: Kari Wolf, MD**

Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry; Co-Executive Director, Neuroscience Institute and CEO, Behavioral Health Workforce Center

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

### Break

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

### Rural Health Workforce Initiatives

**Kristin Rzczkowski, MA**

Workforce Director, Center for Rural Health, Illinois Department of Public Health

**Kristen Nolen**

Section Chief, Center for Rural Health, Illinois Department of Public Health

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

### Closing Remarks

**Sowmy Thuppai, MD, PhD**

Vice Chair, Research Assistant Professor, Population Science and Policy

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The 2025 Illinois Rural and Small-town Health Summit will be held at Memorial Learning Center, 228 W Miller St, Springfield, IL on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. Leaders from government, academia, business, and nonprofit sectors will explore collaborative strategies shaped by COVID-19's challenges and lessons. Topics will include workforce development, policy implementation as well as actionable steps for long-term impact.

## REGISTRATION

Registration information can be found at [siumed.edu/cpd](https://siumed.edu/cpd) (In the drop-down under 'Learners', select 'Conferences'). Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, October 8, 2025. For registration questions, contact the Office of Continuing Professional Development at [ocpd@siumed.edu](mailto:ocpd@siumed.edu).

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration fees are refundable, less a \$40 processing fee, if requested prior to October 8. After October 8, only substitutions are allowed (Advance notice of substitute attendee is required).

## SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

SIU School of Medicine wishes to assure that its activities are accessible to all individuals. If you need any of the services identified in the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Office of Continuing Professional Development at **217-545-7711** or [ocpd@siumed.edu](mailto:ocpd@siumed.edu) at least 7 days in advance.

## ACCREDITATION

The Southern Illinois University School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

## CREDIT STATEMENTS

SIU School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of **6.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** from organizations accredited by ACCME. Physician assistants may receive a maximum of 6.25 AAP Category 1 CME credits for completing this program.

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Certification Board (AANPCB) accepts **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** issued by organizations accredited by the ACCME as an equivalent number of hours of participation.

SIU School of Medicine is preapproved as a continuing nursing education provider pursuant to Section 1300.130, subsection c), 1), B) and P) of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Nurse Practice Act. Nurses may receive a maximum of 6.25 contact hours for completing this activity.

SIU School of Medicine is a licensed provider for continuing education for nursing home administrators (license #139-000027), social workers (license #159-000106), clinical psychologists (license # 268-000008), professional counselors/clinical counselors (license number 197-000073), and dietitians/nutrition counselors (license # 199.000121). This program offers a maximum of 6.25 CE hours.

All other attendees will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

## DISCLOSURE POLICY

It is the policy of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine that speakers, planners and anyone in control of content disclose real or apparent conflicts of interest relating to the topics of this activity, and also disclose discussions of unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs or devices during their presentation(s). The SIU School of Medicine Office of Continuing Professional Development has policies in place that will identify and mitigate all conflicts of interest prior to this activity. Detailed disclosure will be provided prior to the start of the activity.

## REGISTRATION

To register, scan the QR code, visit [siumed.edu/cpd](https://siumed.edu/cpd)  
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### General Registration

☐ Virtual \$75   ☐ In-person \$110

### SIU School of Medicine Faculty & Staff

☐ Virtual \$35   ☐ In-person \$35

### Learners (medical students, residents, fellows, law students, other)

☐ Virtual \$0   ☐ In-person \$0

## CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

### Department Chair

**John M. Flack, MD, MPH, FAHA, FASH, MACP, CHS**

### Planning Committee Chair

**Sowmy Thuppal, MD, PhD**

### Planning Committee Members

**Calista Cahill, BA**

**Jessica Cantrall, MPH**

**Vistrit Choudhary, MPP**

**Carol Coniglio, AIC**

**Erin Ham, MBA**

**Sajan Koirala, MPH**

**Min Jee Lee, PhD**

**Allison Spenner, MS**