



2025 ILLINOIS RURAL AND SMALL-TOWN HEALTH SUMMIT

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE:

Learnings and Transformation in a
Post-Pandemic Environment

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

(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:
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Post-Pandemic Environment

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

Hannah Brenner Johnson, JD

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-87th 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-9th District; Chair, Senate Behavioral and
Mental Health Committee

Honorable Lindsey LaPointe

State Representative, D-19th 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 Associate 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 (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.

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 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
(under 'Learners,' click 'Conferences').



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