

Speaker Biographies

Roberto Mezzina, M.D.

Dr. Roberto Mezzina is the Director of the Department of Mental Health in Trieste, Italy, where he has pioneered an acclaimed model for community-based mental health care. Under his guidance, Trieste has successfully deinstitutionalized care, replacing government-run asylums with a coordinated network of neighborhood clinics that provide 24-hour care and supervision, while encouraging patients to remain connected with family and community. He is a recognized leader on innovative approaches to care that support recovery, independence and social integration of people living with mental illness.

Roberto serves as Director of the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health, Trieste, which supports other nations in deinstitutionalizing mental health care delivery. He is a board member with the International Mental Health Collaborating Network, which promotes creation of community-based services that emphasize recovery and self-determination.

Over three decades, he has worked and published extensively on the topics of deinstitutionalization, crisis intervention, forensic psychiatry and an integrated approach to psychosis treatment. He has been invited to speak before hundreds of scientific conferences and courses in nations across the globe.

Pat McGorry, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Patrick McGorry is Executive Director of Orygen, a leading research institute focused on youth mental health and wellness. He is a professor of youth mental health at The University of Melbourne, and Director of the Board of Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation, known as headspace. He has been a key architect of the headspace model, a network of centers across urban and rural Australia that cater to the physical and mental health needs of young people ages 12-25, with a focus on early intervention in brain illness.

Pat is a renowned researcher in the areas of early psychosis and youth mental health, as well as the mental health of homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers. His work has played a critical role in the development of effective treatments and innovative research into the needs of young people with emerging mental disorders. He serves as Editor-in-Chief of Early Intervention in Psychiatry.

Pat is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, President of the Society for Mental Health Research, and President of the Schizophrenia International Research Society.

Nicole Sherren, Ph.D.

Nicole Sherren is Scientific Director and Senior Program Officer for the Palix Foundation, which established the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative, an effort based in Alberta, Canada, that translates research on brain development, addiction and mental health treatment into policy and practices that support healthy outcomes. Nicole has a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Carleton University, and moved to Alberta in 2003 to hold an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research/Neuroscience Canada research fellowship at the University of Lethbridge.

Her areas of expertise include experience-based brain development, neurodevelopmental disorders, and brain plasticity. Nicole joined the Palix Foundation in 2007 with the goal of mobilizing scientific knowledge into public policy and clinical practice. She specializes in devising innovative solutions for complex social problems, as well as strategies to promote individual and organizational change. She lends her expertise to committees, community-based projects and nonprofits across Alberta.

Ann Sullivan, M.D.

Dr. Ann Sullivan has been commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health since 2014. She has worked to transform the delivery system with an emphasis on recovery and expansion of community-based treatment, including advancing a statewide network of early psychosis intervention services for young people in the early stages of mental illness. She has been instrumental in expanding services for prison inmates living with mental illness and strengthening the continuum of care for people with serious mental illness transitioning from prison into the community.

Previously, she was Senior Vice President for the Queens Health Network of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. She also served as Director of Psychiatry at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens and was an attending psychiatrist at Bellevue Hospital Center.

Dr. Sullivan is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and has served as the Speaker of the American Psychiatric Association's Assembly and on its Board of Trustees. She is a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, a member of the American College of Psychiatrists and the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry.

Steven Adelsheim, M.D.

Dr. Steven Adelsheim is Director of the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health, which was launched in 2015 to spearhead a new vision for supporting the mental health and wellness of children and young adults. The center emphasizes early intervention and prevention and promotes the use of innovative technologies for supporting youth and their families.

Steven is trained as a child/adolescent and adult psychiatrist and has partnered in developing statewide mental health policy and systems, including those focusing on school mental health, telehealth, tribal mental health programs, and suicide prevention. For years, he has developed

and implemented early detection/intervention programs for young people in school-based and primary care settings, including programs for depression, anxiety, prodromal symptoms of psychosis, and first episodes of psychosis.

He is leading the U.S. effort to implement the Australian “headspace” model of mental health early intervention for young people ages 12-25. He also leads the national clinical network for early psychosis programs called PEPPNET, an expert coalition dedicated to highlighting best practices around awareness, prevention and treatment of psychosis-related illness.

Anne Bakar

Anne Bakar has been the CEO and President at Telecare Corporation for more than three decades, carrying on the legacy of founder, Morton Bakar, after his unexpected death in 1987. Telecare offers a comprehensive range of inpatient and outpatient services for individuals with complex behavioral health needs in eight states in partnership with private and public-sector health plans. Serving approximately 30,000 individuals each year with a diverse workforce of 3,500 employees, Telecare’s programs have been nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation facilities and the Joint Commission on Accreditation.

Hallmarks of her leadership include creation of an innovative recovery-oriented clinical system, the establishment of an independent physician services organization, the creation of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan, the consistent recognition of Telecare as a “Best Place to Work,” and an array of public/private partnerships that have infused systems of care nationally with renewed hope for recovery and greater efficiency.

Anne is a national board member at the Kennedy Satcher Center for Mental Health Equity. She graduated cum laude at UC Berkeley.

John Boyd, Psy.D., MHA

John Boyd is chief executive officer of Mental Health Services for the Sutter Health system, one of the nation’s leading nonprofit networks of community-based providers, with services in more than 100 Northern California communities. John has an extensive background in health care administration and mental health services. Prior to joining Sutter in 2008, he served as assistant administrator for Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center and worked eight years at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

John has been appointed a commissioner by Gov. Jerry Brown for the state's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and currently serves as chair. He also serves on the board of the Steinberg Institute and Mental Health America, and on advisory councils for the Movement for Global Mental Health, the Well Being Trust, and Mental Health America of Hawaii. He established and chairs the National Behavioral Health Council with over 40 health system participants.

John earned his doctorate in psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology, and his master's degree in health administration from USC. He has worked as both an inpatient and outpatient therapist in multiple organizations. He is a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives.