

UAB National Symposium for HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES

AGENDA • 2026



THE HEALTHCARE RENAISSANCE: LEADING A NEW ERA OF EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

**November 4 – 6, 2026 • Hotel Wildemont, formerly the Grand Bohemian
Birmingham, AL**

UAB The University of
Alabama at Birmingham.

Department of Health Services Administration



UAB The University of
Alabama at Birmingham.

Center for Healthcare Management and Leadership



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Women in Healthcare Leadership Presents

Beyond Boundaries: Building Influence and Expanding Your Career

2:00 PM – 2:05 PM Welcome

Leandra Celaya, MSc — Assistant Professor, Director, Center for Healthcare Management and Leadership, Director of Operations, Executive Doctoral Program in Healthcare Leadership

2:05 PM – 3:00 PM Opening Keynote Sponsored by Johnson Healthcare and UAB School of Health Professions

Using Social Capital to Improve Performance

*Thomas (Tom) Lee, MD — Chief Medical Officer, Press Ganey
Senior Physician Brigham and Women's Hospital*



3:00 PM – 4:30 PM ACHE Session Sponsored by Guideway Care & STERIS

Healthcare Leadership in the AI Era

Moderator: Christy Lemak, PhD — Executive Vice President for Research and Learning, Scottsdale Institute

- Aaron Bujnowski, DSc — Managing Director, Alvarez & Marsal Healthcare Industry Group
- Kierstin Kennedy, MD, MSHA — Chief Medical and Quality Officer, UAB Medicine
- Caroline Russell, FACHE — Chair, Business Development, Mayo Clinic
- Jeffrey Sturman, MHA — Managing Partner, Information Technology and Digital Leadership Practice, WittKieffer

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM 60th Anniversary of Excellence Gala

The Club, 1 Robert S Smith Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Breakfast Sponsored by Intuitive Health & Trivent Healthcare

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Keynote Sponsored by Encompass Health

*Agentic AI to Advance Healthspan:
What Healthcare Can Learn from Startups and Other Industries*

Vivian Lee, MD, PhD — Tech Executive, Physician Leader, Author



10:00 AM – 11:30 AM ACHE Session Sponsored by PWC and Viva Health

Driving Change in Rural Health: Strategic Partnerships, Evolving Policy, and Innovation

Moderator: Vivian Lee, MD, PhD — Health Care Tech Executive and Author

- Anthony Brocato, DSc, MSHA — CEO, Southeast Colorado Hospital District
- Stephanie Martin, DNP, MSN, BSN — Advisory Health Director, PWC
- Mike Waldrum, MD, MSc, MBA — CEO, ECU Health

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Networking Break Sponsored by Core Construction and Procedeo

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Lunch Sponsored by PYA and Realty Trust Group

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Keynote Sponsored by VeroHx

Leading for Hope When You Can't Change the Circumstances

Katherine Meese, PhD, — Co-Founder & Principal, VeroHx



1:30 PM – 1:45 PM Networking Break Sponsored by Core Clinical Partners

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM ACHE Session Sponsored by MJ Harris

GenFluence: Leading a Multigenerational Workforce

Moderator: Katherine Meese, PhD — Co-Founder & Principal, VeroHx

- Nia Close, MSHA — Manager, Department of Neurology, Mayo Clinic
- Jordan DeMoss, MSHA, FACHE — Executive Vice President, UAB Medicine
- Deborah Grimes, RN, JD, MSHQS — Senior Vice President, Chief Health Outcomes & Inclusion Officer, Ochsner
- Tom Ozburn, DSc — President and CEO, TriStar Centennial Medical Center, HCA

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM Networking Break Sponsored by Dynavax

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM ACHE Session Sponsored by Advocate Health

AI Governance in Action: Strategies for Policy, Risk, and Organizational Readiness

Moderator: Ryan Allen, DSc — Associate Vice President & Chief Security Information Officer, UAB Health System

- Beth Keyser, MSHA — President, Commercial West Region, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Eric Wallace, MD — Chief Medical Information and Digital Health Officer, UAB Health System
- Ken D. Haynes, MBA, MSHA, FACHE — Executive Vice President, Chief Enterprise Services Officer, Advocate Health
- Scott Peek, MSHA — Peaks Region President, Intermountain Healthcare

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Networking Reception Sponsored by UAB Medicine

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM Breakfast Sponsored by Amergis Healthcare Staffing and Labcorp

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM ACHE Session Sponsored by Goodwyn Mills Cawood

Navigating the Journey to High Reliability

Moderator: Charles Hagood, DSc — Managing Partner, Press Ganey

- John Kueven, FACHE, MBA, MSHA, RN — Chief Operating Officer, Northeast Georgia Health System
- John McWhorter, DSc — Chief Operating Officer, Ohio Health
- Joycelyn Craighead, DNP, MSPH, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ — VP, Quality Management & Patient Safety, Huntsville Hospital

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM Networking Break Sponsored by UF Health - Florida Recovery Center

9:45 AM – 11:15 AM ACHE Session Sponsored by Hoar Construction

C-Suite Panel — Advancing Healthcare Excellence in a Time of Transformation

Moderator: Perry Ann Reed, DSc, MBA, MS, FACHE — Interim Senior Vice President, Chief Development Officer, Phoenix Children's Foundation

- Kemberly Blackledge, DSc, FACHE, MBA — Chief Financial Officer, Nashville General Hospital
- Janet Hadar, MSN, MBA, FACHE — Chief Operating Officer, UAB Health System
- Casey Fisher — Chief Operating Officer, Intuitive Health
- Jessie Tucker, PhD, FACHE — President & CEO, UNC Health Wayne

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM Closing Keynote Sponsored by Brasfield & Gorrie

Next Decade of Healthcare Leadership

Thibaut van Marcke, MHA — Senior Vice President, Alabama Region, Orlando Health

