

ACHE OF KS/KCLPC PROGRAM

University of Kansas Medical Center's Fairway North Building
[4330 Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Fairway, KS 66205](#)
3rd Floor Conference Room
November 10, 2026

SCHEDULE

Check In and Networking Coffee: 7:30 – 8:00 a.m.
Education Panel: 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

Disruptive innovation is reshaping healthcare by leveraging technology, new business models, and emerging care models to make care more accessible, affordable, and effective. From artificial intelligence and personalized medicine to innovative approaches to treatment and precision diagnostics, new models are transforming how care is delivered, how providers are reimbursed, and how patients access services. Join us for a discussion on the innovations challenging traditional healthcare models, the opportunities and challenges they present, and how healthcare leaders can harness disruption to improve quality, affordability, access, and patient outcomes.

SPEAKERS

Moderator:

**Vanessa S Watkins, MPH, FACHE, CHES | Children's Mercy Kansas City
Intelligence and Insights Strategist**

Ms. Watkins is an Intelligence and Insights Strategist at Children's Mercy Kansas City, where she partners with leaders across the organization to advance strategy, innovation, growth, and future readiness. Her work focuses on competitive intelligence, emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, evolving care-delivery models, and future healthcare trends. She leads Children's Mercy's Competitive Intelligence and Future Readiness efforts and supports enterprise initiatives, including rural health transformation and the development of new care models. Previously, she spent 13 years with the Children's Mercy Bioethics Center, leading program strategy and operations for its Certificate Program in Pediatric Bioethics. Vanessa also brings experience in strategic planning, community health, and health system administration. She holds a Master of Public Health from San Diego State University, is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves on the Missouri Chapter of ACHE Board.

Panelists:

**Jeffrey Burns, MD, MS | University of Kansas Medical Center
Edward H. Hashinger Professor of Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center
and co-director of the KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center**

Dr. Burns is the Edward H. Hashinger Professor of Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center and co-director of the KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. A nationally recognized neurologist and researcher, he has led Alzheimer's disease research at KU since 2004, with a focus on how lifestyle factors, including exercise, diet and blood pressure, influence brain health, cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease progression. He also directs the Department of

Neurology's Neurocognitive Division and the Clinical and Translational Science Unit. Dr. Burns earned his medical degree and master's in clinical research from the University of Kansas Medical Center, completed his neurology residency at the University of Virginia, and pursued postdoctoral fellowship training in Alzheimer's disease at Washington University in St. Louis. In 2025, he was named a University Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas.

**Dick Flanigan, FACHE | Digital Health KC
President**

Mr. Flanigan is an experienced healthcare technology executive with more than 30 years of experience leveraging information and data to transform healthcare. He recently retired from Oracle Cerner Corporation, where he held senior leadership roles overseeing major client relationships, international operations, IT outsourcing, and regulatory strategy and policy. He also led Cerner's integration of Siemens Health Services and co-led the organization's COVID-19 response to clients. Following his retirement, Dick has served as an advisor and investor to early-stage digital health companies. He co-leads Digital Health KC, a community-wide initiative building upon the extensive cluster in place today focused on using digital technologies to improve healthcare and foster growth and collaboration in the digital health community in the KC region. Dick also serves on the boards of Donnelly College and the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is a member of the Ethical Use of AI Taskforce at the Center for Practical Bioethics.

**Beth Weisz Riead, PharmD, MHA, BCPS | Vizient
Vice President, Pharmacy Consulting Services**

Ms. Weisz Riead is Vice President of Pharmacy Consulting Services at Vizient, where she leads a national pharmacy advisory and consulting practice supporting some of the nation's largest health systems. With more than 20 years of healthcare leadership experience, she specializes in enterprise strategy, operational transformation, and pharmacy services. Beth leads a multidisciplinary team of pharmacy executives and consultants and serves as a trusted advisor to health system leaders navigating complex clinical, operational, and financial challenges. Prior to Vizient, she served as Vice President of Hospital Pharmacy Operations for a national pharmacy management company overseeing more than 100 hospitals nationwide. Beth earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, a Master of Health Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and is Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy.

We are pleased to offer 1.5 In Person Education Credits and an opportunity for networking with fellow members and Kansas City healthcare professionals.