



NIH PRAGMATIC TRIALS COLLABORATORY

Rethinking Clinical Trials®

Innovations in Embedded Pragmatic Clinical Trials

Society for Clinical Trials 47th Annual Meeting
“Advancing Public Health: Clinical Trials in an Era of Cutting-Edge Information Capabilities”

Arizona Grand Resort & Spa, Phoenix, Arizona
May 17, 2026

Speaker Biographies



Patrick Heagerty, PhD

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Dr. Patrick Heagerty is professor and former chair of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Washington. He received a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and a BS from Cornell University. He has extensive experience as an educator, independent and collaborative scientist, and administrator. Dr. Heagerty has developed fundamental methods for longitudinal studies with a focus on prognostic model evaluation and structural longitudinal models, and he has detailed rigorous methods for the design, analysis, and interpretation of cluster randomized trials conducted within healthcare delivery systems. Dr. Heagerty coauthored 2 leading texts (*Analysis of Longitudinal Data*, Oxford 2002; *Biostatistics: A Methodology for the Health Sciences*, Wiley 2004). He is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association and has twice been honored by professional societies for specific research contributions (in 2000 as the Snedecor Award winner; and in 2005 by the International Biometrics Society for the best paper published in the society’s flagship journal, *Biometrics*). Dr. Heagerty directs the Center for Biomedical Statistics (CBS), a core partially funded by the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) with responsibility for coordination of biostatistical collaboration in Seattle and the greater Northwest region (Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Montana). The CBS houses the data coordinating centers for several U01- and R01-funded projects. The CBS has previously conducted high-impact multisite randomized trials, as well. Dr. Heagerty is cochair of the Biostatistics and Study Design Core for the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory, coleader of the Scientific Analysis Unit of the Methods Core for the NIH Mental Health Research Network, and a member of the Executive Committee for the FDA Sentinel Innovation Center. Dr. Heagerty is also a licensed teacher (NY State: mathematics, biology, and chemistry) and has taught from middle school to graduate school (UW SPH Outstanding Teacher Award, 2009).



Michael Ho, MD

Kaiser Permanente Colorado

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P. Michael Ho, MD, PhD, is the medical director of Innovative Methods Promoting Operational Value and Efficiency (IMPROVE) at [Kaiser Permanente Colorado](#) and a senior clinician investigator at the Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Research. His research focuses on finding ways to optimize delivery of safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.

Dr. Ho received his medical training at the [Tulane University School of Medicine](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana, and completed an internship, residency, and cardiology fellowship at the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#).

He also received a PhD in clinical science from the [University of Colorado Health Sciences Center](#). His research teams are working to leveraging mHealth technologies to engage patients in self-management and improve cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol, as well as medication adherence.

Dr. Ho is a practicing clinical physician in cardiology with the [Colorado Permanente Medical Group](#) at [Kaiser Permanente Colorado](#). He is also a professor of medicine at the University of [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#) in the Division of Cardiology. Dr. Ho is the deputy editor of the journal *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, an active Endorsement and Maintenance (E&M) committee member of the Partnership for Quality Measurement and fellow at the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association.



Nana Martinson, MPH

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Nana Martinson is a program analyst in the Clinical Research Branch at NIH/NCCIH, where she supports clinical research operations, study performance monitoring, and strategic planning. She also serves as a project scientist on multiple pragmatic clinical trials, contributing to the rigor and consistency of study design and conduct.

Prior to NIH, she managed a portfolio of clinical and infrastructure projects at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)/PCORnet, supporting comparative effectiveness research. Her work emphasized patient-centered approaches and stakeholder engagement, with a focus on addressing enrollment, feasibility, and implementation challenges in real-world research settings. She also contributed to national health data interoperability efforts at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), supporting the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) through regulatory and policy activities, helping enable researchers to access standardized health data across healthcare systems.

Martinson holds a BS in biology and an MPH from A.T. Still University. Her experience across federal agencies, research networks, and health IT policy provides a strong foundation for advancing pragmatic clinical trials in real-world healthcare settings.



Emily O'Brien, PhD

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Dr. Emily O'Brien is an associate professor in population health sciences and an associate professor in neurology at Duke University, a core faculty member at Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, and codirector of Population Health Sciences at the Duke Clinical Research Institute. Her research focuses on comparative effectiveness, patient-centered outcomes, and pragmatic health systems research in cardiovascular and pulmonary disease. Her areas of expertise include epidemiology, pragmatic clinical trials, and clinical decision sciences.

Dr. O'Brien received her PhD in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As principal investigator for projects funded by the FDA, NIH, and PCORI, she has extensive experience working with diverse data sources including registries, epidemiologic cohorts, electronic health records, and administrative claims data. Dr. O'Brien teaches analytic methods in the Department of Population Health Sciences PhD program and has coauthored over 200 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals on topics ranging from epidemiologic methods, to comparative effectiveness to pragmatic clinical trials. She is an associate editor for *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, chair of the AHA QCOR Scientific & Clinical Education Lifelong Learning Committee, social media editor for *the Journal of the American Heart Association*, and a fellow of the American Heart Association.



Sebastian Tong, MD, MPH

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Sebastian Tong is a practicing family physician and addiction medicine specialist. He is an associate professor of family medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle where he also serves as the associate director of the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho region Practice and Research Network. He practices outpatient family medicine and addiction medicine at the Harborview Family Medicine Clinic. He conducts research in practice-based research, substance use, loneliness, and chronic pain and has received funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of

Nursing Research, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He is one of the National Academy of Medicine's 2023-2025 James C. Puffer/American Board of Family Medicine Fellows. He completed medical school at Boston University School of Medicine, received a master of public health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, and finished his residency training in family medicine at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center.



Angelo Volandes, MD, MPH

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Angelo Volandes, MD, MPH, is the Anna Gundlach Huber Professor in Medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, a clinician–investigator at Dartmouth Health, and vice chair for research in the Department of Medicine at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. His work centers on patient-centered decision-making, particularly conversations around serious illness,

aging, and end-of-life care, and on the use of video decision support tools to inform patients and families. He leads large, multisite embedded pragmatic clinical trials, including ACP PEACE within the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory; his prior pragmatic trial work includes the PROVEN cluster randomized trial in US nursing homes.

He is cofounder and president of ACP Decisions, a nonprofit that develops evidence-based video tools to support shared decision-making, and he is the author of *The Conversation: A Revolutionary Plan for End-of-Life Care*.

Previously, Dr. Volandes served on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital for 20 years. A Brooklyn native and proud graduate of the New York City public schools, he earned an AB in philosophy from Harvard, an MD from Yale, and an MPH from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He trained in internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and was an Edmond J. Safra Faculty Fellow at Harvard's Center for Ethics.



Wendy Weber, ND, PhD, MPH

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Wendy J. Weber, ND, PhD, MPH, is the acting deputy director of the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH). She served as the branch chief for the Clinical Research in Complementary and Integrative Health Branch in the Division of Extramural Research at NCCIH until 2025. She joined NCCIH as a program director in 2009. The Clinical

Research Branch is responsible for the oversight of all NCCIH-supported clinical trials. Dr. Weber is coordinator for NCCIH's Clinical Trial Specific Funding Opportunities and point-of-contact for all natural product–related clinical trial funding opportunities. She is a member of the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory and a former program officer for the Coordinating Center. Dr. Weber is also a member of the planning and oversight team for the NIH–Department of Defense–Department of Veterans Affairs Pain Management Collaboratory and served as project scientist for its Coordinating Center.

Dr. Weber's interests include the use of complementary medicine interventions for common pediatric conditions, mental health conditions, promoting healthy behaviors, and health services research.

Dr. Weber earned a doctor of philosophy in epidemiology and a master of public health from the University of Washington. She earned a doctor of naturopathic medicine (ND) from Bastyr University. Prior to joining NCCIH, she was a research associate professor at Bastyr University, where her research included the study of herbal treatments for pediatric conditions. Her clinical practice focused on the treatment of children and adolescents with mental health conditions, abdominal pain, headaches, and allergies.