

April 23, 2026
9:00AM-4:00PM

***Moments that
Matter:*** AI-Enabled
Decision Support
for Older Adults
Across Health
Transitions



Tangen Hall, Colloquium
University of
Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

sponsored by:

About

Moments that Matter: AI-enabled Decision Support for Older Adults Across Health Transitions is a one-day interdisciplinary conference sponsored by PennAITech and the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health, that convenes researchers, clinicians, health system leaders, industry partners, and policymakers to explore how artificial intelligence can be responsibly designed, evaluated, and implemented to support older adults and their families with complex health care needs during critical transitions in health and care. The conference will examine emerging evidence, methodological approaches, and real-world applications of AI-enabled decision support, while addressing clinical, technical, and ethical considerations. Through dialogue and knowledge exchange, the meeting aims to catalyze collaborative research, inform practice, and shape policy directions that advance person-centered, trustworthy, and equitable AI solutions for older adults with complex health care needs.

Thursday April 23, 2026

9:00am Registration and Breakfast

9:30am Welcome and Overview

9:45am Keynote: [A 20 year Journey in Dementia Care: From JAMA to GUIDE!!](#)
Malaz Boustani
Indiana University School of Medicine

10:30am Panel: [Key Research Findings, Gaps, and Implications](#)

- Anessa Foxwell
- Jeannette Kates
- Ellen Munsterman
- Mary Naylor (moderator)

11:30am Keynote: [From Trust to Health Outcomes: AI Companionship for Aging at Home](#)
Dor Skuler
Intuition Robotics

12:30pm LUNCH

1:00pm Keynote: [From Insight to Impact: Turning Personalized Insight into Meaningful Action](#)
Jim Firman
BetterAge

Thursday April 23, 2026

Panel: [When Moments Matter Most: AI Decision Support for Critical Health Junctures](#)

1:30pm

- Gary Weissman
 - Melissa O'Connor
 - Bethany Sewell
 - Nancy Hodgson (moderator)
-

Panel: [Industry Insights: From Technology Development to Real-World Impact](#)

2:30pm

- Neil Shah
 - Ashish Shah
 - Tatiana Fofanova
 - John Rydzewski (moderator)
-

3:30pm Reflections: Tim McDonald

4:00pm Reception in The Summit - 7th floor

Speakers (in alphabetical order)



Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH

Dr. Malaz Boustani is a geriatrician and nationally recognized leader in applying artificial intelligence, digital health, and Agile science to improve decision-making for older adults. As Founding Director of the Indiana University Center for Health Innovation and Implementation Science, his work integrates AI-enabled decision support and Agile science to redesign care for cognitively vulnerable populations. Dr. Boustani has led numerous NIH-funded pragmatic and hybrid trials advancing scalable, human-centered innovations in brain health, dementia, and delirium care. His keynote perspective emphasizes how AI can augment clinical judgment and support critical moments that matter for patients, caregivers, and health systems.



George Demiris, PhD, FACMI

George Demiris is a PIK (Penn Integrates Knowledge) University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and holds joint faculty appointments in the School of Nursing where he serves as Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, and the Informatics Division of the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics, Perelman School of Medicine. He explores innovative ways to utilize technology and support older adults and their families in various settings, including home and hospice care. He is a Member of the National Academy of Medicine, a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, the Gerontological Society of America and the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics. He directs the Penn Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory for Healthy Aging and is co-director of the Penn Community Collaboratory for Co-Creation.



James P. Firman, EdD, MBA

Jim Firman is Co-Founder and Chief Innovation Officer at BetterAge, a public-benefit digital health company reimagining how people are supported to age well. He brings more than four decades of leadership in aging, public policy, and philanthropy, including 25 years as President and CEO of the National Council on Aging. His work focuses on empowering consumers with personalized, digitally enabled tools that help them take greater control of their health and wellbeing. Jim is Principal Investigator on an NIH-funded SBIR Fast Track project evaluating a scalable, personalized platform for improving outcomes for older adults and family care partners.



Tatiana Fofanova, PhD

Tatiana Fofanova, PhD, is the Co-Founder and CEO of Koda Health, an AI-enhanced patient decision support platform designed to make advance care planning (ACP) and kidney action planning scalable, accessible, and truly patient-centered for patients with serious illness. After earning her PhD in Translational Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, Tatiana joined Texas Medical Center (TMC) as a Founder-in-Residence. It was there that she and her co-founders identified one of the most overlooked yet critical gaps in healthcare: the lack of meaningful, accessible advance care planning. Under her leadership, Koda Health now supports over 1 million patients through partnerships with organizations like Cigna, Privia, and Houston Methodist, helping patients navigate complex care decisions, align treatment with their values, and plan proactively across the care continuum.



Anessa Foxwell, PhD, MSN, MBE

Dr. Anessa Foxwell is a Nurse Scientist at the PAIR (Palliative and Advanced Illness Research) Center at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. She is a co-investigator on NIH- and PCORI-funded grants focused on improving palliative care delivery using AI-prognostic models and clinical decision support tools through large pragmatic trials. Dr. Foxwell's training established expertise in clinician distress and advanced qualitative and mixed-methods research approaches. Dr. Foxwell is an instructor at Penn Nursing, where she teaches palliative care. Dr. Foxwell was named one of the 2022 Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation Emerging Leaders and was honored as a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing by HPNA in 2023.



Nancy Hodgson, PhD, RN, MSN, FAAN

Nancy A Hodgson, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, is the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. An international expert the development and testing evidence-based caregiving programs for persons living with dementia, including technology -based interventions, Dr Hodgson applies implementation science approaches particularly focused on underserved communities. Dr. Hodgson's work has informed national clinical practice guidelines and influenced reimbursement policies.

Speakers (cont.)



Jeannette Kates, PhD, APRN, FPCN

Jeannette Kates, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FPCN is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, nurse scientist for oncology nursing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and member of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health. With a rich background as a nurse practitioner in palliative care, oncology, and geriatrics, Dr. Kates's research focuses on improving the care of individuals with serious illnesses and their caregivers. Her work emphasizes early and equitable access to palliative and supportive care, spanning from treatment-related decision-making at diagnosis to innovative delivery of palliative care services. Dr. Kates was honored as a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing by the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association in 2023.



Tim McDonald, MBA

Tim McDonald invests and advises health care services companies as a partner at Guidon Partners. Over his career, he's also been an operative executive in the payer market, provider organizations, IT enabled services companies and distributors of health care products.



Ellen Munsterman, MSN, RN

Ellen Munsterman is a Doctoral Candidate in the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a Gerontological Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist with over 15 years of clinical experience caring for hospitalized older adults. Her research centers on improving the experience of hospitalization for persons living with dementia and their families.



Mary D. Naylor, PhD, RN, FAAN

Mary D. Naylor, PH.D., RN, FAAN, is the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and Founding Director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is an internationally recognized expert in transitional care of older adults and their family caregivers and the chief architect of the Transitional Care Model (TCM). She is a founding member of the Coalition for Trust in Health and Science. She also is a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Leadership Consortium where she co chairs the Trust and Engagement Action Collaborative. In recognition of her scientific contributions, Dr. Naylor received the AcademyHealth's Distinguished Investigator Award and the National Academy of Medicine's Gustav O. Leinhard Award for outstanding achievements in improving U.S. health care services.



Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, FGSA, FAAN, NC-BC

Dr. Melissa O'Connor, PhD, MBA, RN, FGSA, FAAN, NC-BC, an inaugural Fellow with the Betty Irene Moore Fellowships for Nurse Leaders and Innovators, is the Associate Dean for Research and Rudin Professor of Nursing at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing at Hunter College, City University of New York. Addressing the needs of an unprecedented and understudied older adult population living in the community, Dr. O'Connor is an expert in the delivery of home health care services to vulnerable older adults. In addition to home health, Dr. O'Connor specializes in informatics, gerontological nursing and transitional care.



John Rydzewski

John J. Rydzewski is Chairman of TaiBear Health, Inc. a predictive intelligence company utilizing proprietary neural network architectures and longitudinal datasets to impede the progression of complex chronic diseases. He invests in health care services and life science companies having previously served as an investment banker, hedge fund manager and director of numerous private and publicly traded health care companies. He currently serves on the RAND Corporation's Economic and Health Policy Advisory Board and as Chairman of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. He earned BS and MBA degrees from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Speakers (cont.)



Bethany Sewell, MSW

Bethany Sewell is a Program Manager at the PAIR Center, where she leads the implementation of large NIH- and PCORI-funded trials leveraging EHR-based clinical decision support interventions to improve palliative care delivery. As a clinical social worker with 30+ years of experience across healthcare settings, she spent much of her career at the bedside supporting seriously ill patients and their families. She later transitioned to clinical research, directing pragmatic trials in post-acute care before joining Dr. Kate Courtright's team at the PAIR Center. Bethany also leads patient, caregiver, and stakeholder engagement efforts that shape study design, implementation, and dissemination.



Ashish V. Shah

Ashish V. Shah is Co-Founder and CEO of Dina, a Chicago-based healthcare technology company partnering with Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, and PACE programs to improve access, reliability, and transparency in home-based care. He brings deep expertise at the intersection of clinical interoperability, payer strategy, and care delivery transformation, with a focus on pragmatic execution and AI-enabled operations at scale. Previously, Ashish was CTO of Medicity, leading it to a \$500 million acquisition by Aetna. He began his career advising Fortune 500 healthcare organizations at Diamond Technology Partners (PwC). Ashish holds a BS in Computer Engineering from Iowa State University.



Neal K. Shah

America's Chief Elder Officer. CEO of CareYaya Health Technologies. Working hard to improve healthcare. #1 Bestselling Author of "Insured to Death". Chairman of Counterforce Health. After a successful career as a \$250 million hedge fund manager, deeply personal dementia and cancer caregiving experiences in my mid-30s inspired a pivot to social entrepreneurship. Now, determined to transform care delivery through technology. Building a rapidly-growing tech startup to expand access to affordable care. Pioneering cutting-edge AI applications to fundamentally elevate quality of life for those needing care. Building unrivaled technical capabilities and strategic partnerships to establish CareYaya as America's leading launchpad for care innovation. Together, let's build a better future for care!



Dor Skuler, MBA

A serial entrepreneur, Dor Skuler has co-founded five ventures, the most recent being Intuition Robotics, following his passion to develop social AI companions to help older adults live healthier happier lives. A former officer in Israel's elite military intelligence unit 8200, Dor has founded and led 5 startups. Immediately prior to Intuition Robotics, Dor founded and led Cloudband within Alcatel-Lucent (NYSE:ALU), the world's first platform for Network Functions Virtualization (NFV), cited by Nokia as a major motive to purchase the French-American telecoms giant. Prior to CloudBand Dor was head of Corporate Development and Innovation as a corporate Senior Vice President at Alcatel-Lucent. Dor is frequently quoted by the global press with appearances in: NYTimes, WSJ, Washington Post, CNBC, and many more. Dor holds an MBA and Master's of Science in Marketing, has co-authored an academic textbook 'Cloud Computing: Business Trends and Technologies' published by Wiley in 2016 and holds board level advisory and director roles for several telecoms, cyber security and tech-led social impact ventures as well as being an active angel investor. Dor has co-authored over 30 patents.



Gary Weissman, MD, MSHP

Dr. Gary Weissman is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Informatics and Core Faculty at the PAIR Center. He is also a Senior Fellow of both the Leonard Davis Institute (LDI) of Health Economics and the Penn Institute for Bioinformatics (IBI). Dr. Weissman is a practicing physician and cares for people on the medical intensive care unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Weissman leads the Clinical Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (CAIML) Lab that develops and tests predictive clinical decision support systems using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) methods. The CAIML lab develops AI/ML decision support systems for ventilator management, population health management, and diagnostic excellence. He also conducts policy research related to the regulation and oversight of clinical AI/ML decision support systems. His work has been supported by NHLBI, NIGMS, NIA, and ARPA-H.

Workshop Sponsors



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Artificial Intelligence and
Technology Collaboratory
for Healthy Aging

The overarching goal of the Penn Artificial Intelligence and Technology (PennAITech) Collaboratory for Healthy Aging is to identify, develop, evaluate, commercialize, and disseminate innovative technology and artificial intelligence (AI) methods and software to support older adults and those with Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) in their home environment. The Collaboratory is motivated by the need for a comprehensive pipeline from technology-based monitoring of older adults in the home, collection and processing monitoring data, integration of those data with clinical data from electronic health records, analysis with cutting-edge AI methods and software, and deployment of validated AI models at point of care for decision support.

A central focus of the PennAITech Collaboratory, as part of the a2 Collective, is to advance this vision through the solicitation, review, and funding of pilot grants focused on technology and AI development to advance the science of care management and aging in place for vulnerable older adults or those with AD/ADRD receiving skilled home and community-based services. Funded pilot projects will be supported through cores focused on administration, stakeholder engagement, technology identification and training, clinical translation and validation, networking, and ethical and policy issues.



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The NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health (NCTH) is the nation's first research center dedicated to transforming health and healthcare transitions for chronically ill and aging populations while advancing solutions that meaningfully support them and their family caregivers. Health transitions such as declines in functional status or movement between care settings like hospital to home represent critical periods where timely, evidence based, and person centered interventions can prevent complications, reduce unnecessary health care utilization, and support independence and quality of life for older adults.

Established in 2007, NCTH brings together leading investigators across nursing, medicine, social work, public health, engineering, and policy to design, test, and scale innovative approaches that improve care continuity and outcomes for vulnerable populations. The Center also serves as a national leader in training the next generation of nurse scientists who advance research to improve health and healthcare transitions, enhance quality of life for older adults, and guide policy and practice.

NCTH advances interdisciplinary research and innovation through collaboration among scientists, clinicians, engineers, policy leaders, and industry partners. A central focus of the Center is accelerating the translation of evidence into practice and policy through strategic partnerships with health systems, universities, community organizations, and industry innovators in the United States and globally. The Center's work has informed federal demonstration programs, shaped policy, and expanded the adoption of evidence-based care models that improve outcomes for older adults and their caregivers, including the internationally recognized Transitional Care Model developed by NCTH's founding director, Mary D. Naylor, and team.

Through its research portfolio, training programs, and collaborative partnerships, NCTH continues to advance high impact science and scalable solutions that strengthen health systems and improve care for older adults navigating complex health and social needs.

Connect with NCTH online:

Website: <https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/ncth>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/newcourtland-center-for-transitions-and-health>

X: <https://x.com/PennNCTH>



Venue Details

WHERE: Tangen Hall, Colloquium
University of Pennsylvania

115 S 40th St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Main entrance on 40th Street

Meeting Space: 2nd Floor, Large Classroom

Tangen Hall is ADA Accessible.

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Restrooms in Tangen Hall are gender-inclusive. Participants should use the restroom that they are comfortable using.

Tangen Hall phone number:
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TRANSPORTATION & PARKING:

- Tangen Hall is a 20-25 minute walk from 30th Street Station for those arriving by Amtrak. You can also take SEPTA’s Market Frankford Line 2 stops Westbound from 30th Street to 40th Street Station. Tangen Hall is two blocks from the 40th Street subway station.
- The Philadelphia Airport has a public transit option that is very cost effective. We recommend taking the Airport Line to 30th Street Station, then utilizing a taxi, ride share, or the Market Frankford Line to get from 30th Street Station to Tangen Hall.
- Taxis and Ubers are easily available in this area.
- The University City area is very walkable.
- 2-hour street parking available on 40th street including handicap spaces directly in front of Tangen Hall entrance.
- Garage parking is available across the street at the Walnut & 40th Street garage (Must pay on entry with credit card. \$23 daily rate.)