

PRESS CONTACT:
Sandy George, CXO Communication
sandy@cxocommunication.com
(617) 413-6126

IHI KICKS OFF NATIONAL FORUM WITH 5,500 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS COMMITTED TO BEING BEST AT HEALTH CARE AND BEST AT IMPROVING HEALTH

Cambridge, MA, and Orlando, FL – December 9, 2014 – [The Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI), a leading innovator in health and health care improvement worldwide, has kicked off its 26th Annual [National Forum](#) on Quality Improvement in Health Care in Orlando, FL (December 7-10, 2014), continuing its preeminent role of bringing together leaders and clinical improvers who are doing transformative work and seeking innovative ways to not only provide the best patient care possible but also play a stronger role promoting health. Against a backdrop of millions of newly insured Americans accessing health care services for the first time, more than 5,500 health care professionals from 52 countries are sharing how they are redesigning care; partnering with individuals, patients, families, and communities to remove barriers; and applying fresh modes of thinking to improve both health care delivery as well as the overall health of individuals and communities.

At this morning's keynote address, IHI President and CEO Maureen Bisognano and EVP Derek Feeley told the audience that we need commitment to day-to-day, reliable performance *and* a drive to innovate; incredible literacy with clinical science *and* literacy with the tools and methods of improvement. And is the new or. The only way to deliver on the promise of a safe, reliable, cost-effective health care system is by appreciating all the factors that influence and can undermine a person's health. These may include lack of decent housing, lack of access to food, unemployment, violence, or addiction.

Bisognano and Feeley encouraged attendees to embrace “the genius of the AND.” This principle – coined by author Jim Collins – is clearly seen in the organizations that seem best placed to respond to today's challenges.

“We need to build the true ‘learning health system,’” Bisognano said, “one with breakthrough system-level performance on safety, access, and flow; one that uses all the knowledge we have for best care; and one that understands and cares for the patient and family – that understands their context, and that leverages the empathy all carers have inside them.”



IHI President & CEO Maureen Bisognano and IHI EVP Derek Feeley encourage the 5,500 health professionals at IHI's National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care to embrace “the genius of the AND” in their work. They will host a media Q&A at 4:30 pm ET on Tues Dec 9: 1-866-469-3239; code: 21772384

A New Path Forward: 100 Million Healthier Lives

To help accelerate these new mental models and collaborations, IHI is one of 60 founding partners of a new [Guiding Coalition for 100 Million Healthier Lives](#), many of whose members are attending the National Forum for the first time. They are among more than 200 individuals and organizations who've signed on to the effort so far, drawn from the worlds of public health, community health, health care, policy, patients, education, grass roots groups, and more.

Today, IHI and the Guiding Coalition are issuing a [report](#) that outlines the goals of the initiative to improve the health of 100 million people by 2020. The report outlines how change of this scale can happen in measurable ways, and how hospitals and health care organizations can get involved to support and strengthen community efforts around health.

“We are delighted to partner with some of the most forward thinking and committed people and organizations in the country who are willing to learn how to achieve this ambitious goal together – and we look forward to welcoming many more to the initiative,” stated Soma Stout, MD, MS, Executive Lead for 100 Million Healthier Lives Leadership Team. “More than ever, our approach to care must focus on seeing every individual as a whole person, and seeing their needs as reaching beyond the traditional walls of a health care system.”

Closing Gaps to Achieve the Best Health Care Possible

Within the walls of health care, there's still a great deal of work to do to close gaps in safety and care. In their keynote, Bisognano and Feeley told the gathering they were heartened by a just-released [report](#) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) suggesting that focused attention by hospitals throughout the country to reduce adverse events has contributed to recent declines in the rate of hospital-acquired conditions (HACs) and an estimated 50,000 fewer associated deaths.

Bisognano and Feeley also pointed to the [Joint Replacement Learning Community \(JRLC\)](#), an initiative IHI convened with faculty from the Harvard Business School (HBS) that is showing some early results combining cost savings with better care and better experience. The initiative focused on new methods that promise to improve health outcomes per dollar spent for knee and hip replacements, the most common condition in the Medicare population. Over the past year, the 32 participating organizations endeavored to design a care cycle for hip and knee replacements that improved patient value by reducing by 5% dollar costs in surgery (acute care) while maintaining or improving health outcomes. As the end of the initiative nears, nearly 90% of teams report reaching their 5% goal, with teams reporting a range of 3-17% annual savings across the community. Two thirds of the teams created new processes to increase the number of patients who could be discharged to home rather than a rehab or skilled nursing facility. Same-day physical and occupational therapy contributed to one hospital's discharge-to-home rate climbing from 60% to 90% over the course of the year.

Over the course of the next two days, Forum attendees will hear about other outstanding work to close gaps, with more than 100 sessions to choose from, covering everything from providing truly compassionate health care, to achieving patient safety in the ambulatory setting, to integrating behavioral health and primary care to achieve the Triple Aim. More than 600 improvement storyboards will also be on display, including a significant number that reflect improvement initiatives launched by students in the health professions who are active in IHI's [Open School](#).

Media Availability

From 4:30 to 5:15 pm ET on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, Maureen Bisognano and IHI EVP Derek Feeley will provide further information on their keynote remarks, the Guiding Coalition, and IHI's recent work. They will host a Q&A with journalists on-site at the Forum, and remote media contacts are encouraged to join by dialing **1-866-469-3239** and entering the **passcode: 21772384**.

About The Institute for Healthcare Improvement

IHI is a leading innovator in health and health care improvement worldwide. For more than 25 years, we have partnered with an ever-growing community of visionaries, leaders, and front-line practitioners around the globe to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. Together, we build the will for change, seek out innovative models of care, and spread proven best practices. When it comes to raising the quality of health for all, IHI sees boundless possibilities and while we see the walls in front of us, we will not rest until we reach the other side. Learn more at ihi.org.

###