



# LONG COVID'S IMPACT ON THE WORKFORCE

## Meet the Panelists



**Ofronama Biu**, Ph.D., is a Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute, housed in the Income and Benefits Policy Center where she is a member of the Building America's Workforce cross-center initiative and affiliated with the Office of Race and Equity Research. Dr. Biu uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to explore racial and gender stratification in the economy, including occupational crowding and alternative work, race and gender disparities in workplace experiences, workforce development, and wealth equity. Before joining Urban, Dr. Biu was a senior researcher at the City University of New York in the NYC Labor Market Information Service and the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies. Dr. Biu has a bachelor's degree in psychology from New York University, a master of public administration degree in public and nonprofit management and policy from New York University, and a doctorate in public and urban policy from the New School.



**David Cutler**, Ph.D., is the Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics at Harvard University. Professor Cutler also holds secondary appointments at the Harvard Kennedy School and the T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His work in health economics and public economics has earned him significant academic and public acclaim. Professor Cutler served on the Council of Economic Advisers and the National Economic Council during the Clinton Administration and has advised the Presidential campaigns of Bill Bradley, John Kerry and Barack Obama. He also served as Senior Health Care Advisor for the Obama Presidential Campaign.

Among other affiliations, he has held positions with the National Institutes of Health and the National Academy of Sciences. Currently, Professor Cutler is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He advises many companies and groups on health care. Professor Cutler also was a key advisor in the formulation of the recent cost control legislation in Massachusetts as well as a member of the Health Policy Commission created to help reduce medical spending in that state.



**Netia McCray** serves as the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, *Mbadika*, born out of MIT. Her work focuses on making STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education accessible to learners of all ages and backgrounds. After getting COVID-19 in March 2020, as a long-time Boston resident, she channeled her experience with Long COVID and her science communication expertise into national advocacy efforts. Netia's current focus is on making knowledge widely available regarding the effects of post-infectious disease and chronic illness, especially in Black and Brown communities, which have been disproportionately affected by COVID and yet remain underrepresented in Long Covid organizations and efforts. Both as an independent advocate and as the Education Director of the COVID-19 Longhailer Advocacy Project (C-19 LAP), Netia has spoken extensively at public events, conducted media, and has also worked with members of the U.S. Congress to promote equitable access to Long COVID assistance and treatments.



**David Putrino**, P.T., Ph.D., is an Official Medical Provider for Red Bull's Sponsored Athletes in North America. He is a physical therapist with a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. Dr. Putrino worked as a clinician in Australia before moving to the United States to study computational neuroscience at Harvard Medical School, MIT and NYU. He has served as a faculty member at Weill-Cornell Medicine and Burke Medical Research Institute. Dr. Putrino is currently the Director of Rehabilitation Innovation for the Mount Sinai Health System, and a Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He works to develop innovative technology solutions for individuals in need of better healthcare accessibility.

Dr. Putrino consults with the Red Bull High Performance division to use evidence-based technologies to improve athletic performance. He is also the "Chief Mad Scientist" of Not Impossible Labs, a group that crowd-sources accessible technological solutions for high-impact humanitarian problems. Dr. Putrino's research has been featured on *ABC*, *Sports Illustrated*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *BBC*, *Time*, *Wired* and the *LA Times*, to name a few.



**Sarah von Schrader**, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Research and Program Evaluation at the Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability at Cornell University's ILR (Industrial and Labor Relations) School. Her research focuses on employer practices related to employer success in recruiting, hiring, and advancing people with disabilities. She is the lead of the research team for The Northeast Americans with Disabilities Act Center. She also works on evaluation of the process and impact of several of the state and national level programs.



**James V. McDonald**, M.D., M.P.H., was appointed Acting Commissioner of Health January 1, 2023 and confirmed as Commissioner by the State Senate on June 10, 2023. Prior to joining the New York State Department of Health in July of 2022, Dr. McDonald served at the Rhode Island Department of Health since 2012.

At the Rhode Island Department of Health, he served in multiple roles including, Interim Director of Health, Chief Administrative Officer of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, Medical Director for the COVID unit, as well as the Medical Director for Center for Customer Services and the Drug Overdose prevention program. He was also a member of the Governor's task force on Preventing Overdose deaths. Dr. McDonald has faculty appointments at the Brown School of Public Health as well as the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. McDonald earned his M.D. from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago, his pediatric residency in the US Navy, and his preventive medicine residency from the State University of New York. He earned his M.P.H. from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He earned his B.S. in Biology from Siena College. Dr. McDonald is board certified in pediatrics as well as preventive medicine.

His diverse career includes officership in the U.S. Navy, as well as private practice in rural areas where health care shortages existed. Dr. McDonald also served in the Indian Health Service in the Navajo Nation, serving as Medical Director of Outpatient Medicine in Chinle, Arizona.



**Scott Maddalo**, M.D., joined NYSIF in 2022 as its Medical Director from Arbicare and Hartford Healthcare. At Hartford Healthcare, Dr. Maddalo served as a pain management physician and anesthesiologist treating complex pain conditions. He was a leader on their Opioid Council, which was tasked with improving opioid prescription monitoring and utilization.

At Arbicare, an organization that specializes in utilization management for workers' compensation cases, Dr. Maddalo served as Medical Director, working to improve quality control for the claims review process, conducting chart reviews on pain management and orthopedic surgery case submissions to workers' compensation carriers and performing reviews for case appeals.

Dr. Maddalo is also a published author whose work has appeared in books: *Sleep Medicine for Dentists: An Evidence-Based Overview*, 2nd ed. and *Academic Pain Medicine*, as well as numerous publications in journals including the *Journal of Cardiology Cases*, *Clinical and Translational Science* and *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*. He received his M.D./M.S. in Clinical Investigation from the New York University School of Medicine and a B.A. in Chemistry from Connecticut College.



**Gaurav Vasisht** is Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of NYSIF, a non-profit competitive enterprise that is the largest workers' compensation insurer in New York. Before joining NYSIF, Gaurav served as an advisor to former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul A. Volcker on financial stability and regulatory matters, worked as a lawyer to three Governors of New York, and held key roles at the New York Department of Financial Services and the New York Attorney General's Office.

Gaurav has testified before Congress on financial system stability, presented before the G20's Financial Stability Board on the effectiveness of Too-Big-To-Fail reforms, and frequently publishes and speaks on issues of relevance to the financial services industry.



**Navneet Kathuria**, M.D., is Chief Medical Officer for Community Health Care Network. During the past 20 years, Dr. Kathuria has worked in all aspects of health care, from medical practitioner to educator and executive. In his prior role as Vice President of Hackensack Meridian Health's Population Health Management, Dr. Kathuria provided strategic and operational leadership for the development of the Population Health platform across the Hackensack Meridian Health network.

Prior to joining Hackensack Meridian Health, Dr. Kathuria established Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Globalization as the school's Chief Performance Improvement Officer and served as Vice Chairman of Quality Assurance and Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mount Sinai Hospital. He is also a published author and co-edited *The Handbook of Hospital Medicine*.

Dr. Kathuria received his medical degree from Albany Medical College in New York and trained in internal medicine at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue, in hematology at Yale University, and in general medicine at Columbia University. He earned his M.B.A. from the NYU Stern School of Business.