



RICE | BUSINESS
HEALTHCARE
CONFERENCE 2026

**Transformation Through
Innovation: AI In Healthcare**

APRIL 24, 2026 | MCNAIR HALL, RICE UNIVERSITY

AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	Rotunda & AFC
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome Remarks <i>Peter Rodriguez, Ph.D.</i> – Dean, Rice Business	Shell Auditorium
9:15 – 9:45 AM	Keynote Presentation I <i>Roberta Levy Schwartz, Ph.D.</i> – Executive Vice President, Houston Methodist Hospital, Chief Innovation Officer, Houston Methodist	Shell Auditorium
9:50 – 10:50 AM	Panel I: Digital Innovation in Care Delivery <i>Sarah Pletcher, M.D.</i> – Chief Digital Health Officer and System Vice President for Strategic Innovation, Houston Methodist <i>Khurram Nasir, M.D.</i> – Co-Director, Houston Methodist, Rice Digital Health Institute, Chief of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Wellness, Houston Methodist <i>Monisha Shah, M.D.</i> – Medical Director and Owner, Rejuve Medical Spa and Medical Director and Co-Owner, Atlas Premier Health <i>Dan Shoenthal</i> – Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, MD Anderson <i>Moderator: Michael Antonoff</i> , Chief Operating Officer, CareSet	Shell Auditorium
10:50 – 11:05 AM	Break	AFC
11:05 – 11:35 AM	Keynote Presentation II <i>Jochen Reiser, M.D., Ph.D.</i> – President, University of Texas Medical Branch and Chief Executive Officer, UTMB Health System	Shell Auditorium
11:40 AM – 12:40 PM	Panel II: Predictive Analytics and Patient Experience <i>Parin Shah, M.D.</i> – Founder and Managing Partner, Emerge Healthcare Group <i>Tom Vo, M.D.</i> – CEO and Chairman of the Board, Nutex Health <i>Ali Haider</i> – Founder, President and CEO, Lilia AI <i>Radha Tamerisa, M.D.</i> – Founder, Katy Integrative Gastroenterology <i>Moderator: Eddie Lee Patton Jr., M.D.</i> – Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurology and Neurosurgery, University of Texas	Shell Auditorium
12:40 – 1:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Shell Auditorium
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Reception and Networking	AFC

OPENING SPEAKER



PETER RODRIGUEZ

Dean, Rice Business

Peter Rodriguez is dean of the Jones Graduate School of Business and the Virani Undergraduate School of Business at Rice University. He is an economist and professor of strategic management, and his research interests include international trade, economic growth, corruption, and social institutions. Rodriguez holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University and a B.S. in economics from Texas A&M University. He worked for several years as an associate in the Global Energy Group at JP Morgan Chase. He was recently appointed to serve a second three-year term on the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, where he serves as Chair of the Houston Branch board of directors, providing input on economic conditions in Texas and the region.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



ROBERTA LEVY SCHWARTZ, PH.D.

Executive Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, Houston Methodist Hospital

Roberta L. Schwartz is the executive vice president of Houston Methodist Hospital – one of the founding institutions of the Texas Medical Center – and the chief innovation officer of Houston Methodist. In her role as executive vice president, Dr. Schwartz oversees all operations at the 1,020-bed hospital, which U.S. News & World Report named the No. 1 hospital in Texas for 14 straight years. As chief innovation officer, Schwartz is responsible for advancing and expanding Houston Methodist's digital innovation platforms, including telemedicine, artificial intelligence and big data. Prior to joining Houston Methodist, Schwartz worked at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

Dr. Schwartz earned a master's degree in health science from Johns Hopkins University and an honors undergraduate degree from Barnard College at Columbia University. She has a Ph.D. from UTHealth Houston School of Public Health. She is also certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



JOCHEN REISER, M.D., PH.D.

President, University of Texas Medical Branch, Chief Executive Officer, UTMB Health System

Jochen Reiser, MD, PhD, is president of The University of Texas Medical Branch and CEO of the UTMB Health System. He is also a professor in the John Sealy School of Medicine and is the John D. Stobo, MD Distinguished Chair. A physician-scientist and executive with a strong interest in higher learning, improving health and quality of life in Texas and beyond, he is committed to advancing UTMB Health's historic mission in education, research, clinical care and innovation.

Dr. Reiser earned his degrees from the University of Heidelberg in Germany. He completed postdoctoral and residency training at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. He completed a fellowship in nephrology at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

PANEL I: Digital Innovation in Care Delivery



SARAH PLETCHER, M.D.

Chief Digital Health Officer and System Vice President for Strategic Innovation, Houston Methodist

Sarah Pletcher is the chief digital health officer and system vice president for strategic innovation at Houston Methodist. In this role, she leads strategy, development, acceleration, and execution of new care models and digital health innovations transforming the health system into the next decade. Prior to joining Houston Methodist, Dr. Pletcher founded the Centers for Connected Care and Telehealth at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, where she led the health system in selecting and implementing telehealth technology platforms, and has advised health systems, policy makers and investors. Her distinguished career includes quality and process improvement, education innovation and network development, and she has been a principal investigator on more than \$100M in grant and philanthropic funding.



KHURRAM NASIR, M.D.

Co-Director, Houston Methodist, Rice Digital Health Institute, Chief of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Wellness, Houston Methodist

Khurram Nasir holds the William A. Zoghbi Centennial Chair in Cardiovascular Health, serves as chief of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Wellness at Houston Methodist, and is a professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He was recently appointed co-director of the Houston Methodist-Rice Digital Health Institute, where he collaborates with Rice University to drive innovations in digital health, AI and personalized healthcare. Dr. Nasir received his M.D. from a medical school in Pakistan and an MPH from Johns Hopkins University. He completed his internal medicine residency at Boston Medical Center and cardiology fellowship at Yale University, followed by postdoctoral research training at Johns Hopkins Hospital and an NIH T32 fellowship in cardiac imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital. He recently earned a master's degree in health economics and policy management from the London School of Economics & Political Science.



MONISHA SHAH, M.D.

Medical Director and Owner, Rejuve Medical Spa and Medical Director and Co-Owner, Atlas Premier Health

Monisha Shah has been a physician for more than 20 years, with a journey spanning multiple cities and fields in medicine. She began her training at Chicago Medical School, completed her pediatrics residency at Cornell/New York-Presbyterian, and pursued a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Texas Children's Hospital and Emergency Ultrasound at UT Memorial Hermann. After several years in academic medicine, she transitioned to the private sector, building an aesthetics and wellness practice before expanding into functional medicine, with a focus on hormone optimization, weight management and longevity.



DAN SHOENTHAL

Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, MD Anderson

As chief innovation officer at MD Anderson, Dan Shoenthal leverages his experience in healthcare technology and early-stage technology development to identify problems, forge the right collaborations, and ensure long-term strategies that maximize value. As co-creator of MD Anderson's innovation strategy, he is driving a plan to grow innovation capabilities across disciplines and mission areas while enabling innovators throughout the organization. Before joining MD Anderson, Shoenthal was senior director of product management at UPMC's Technology Development Center and UPMC Enterprises, with prior senior-level roles overseeing product management and engineering. He holds an M.S. in information systems management and a B.S. in business administration from Robert Morris University.



MICHAEL ANTONOFF – MODERATOR

Chief Operating Officer, CareSet

Michael Antonoff serves as chief operating officer at CareSet Systems, a healthcare data consulting company specializing in curating Medicare claims data for pharmaceutical clients. In this role, he leads operations, financial oversight, delivery and people and capacity management. Previously, Antonoff served as director of data science at Well Health, a patient communication company using text messaging to improve patient engagement through appointment reminders and post-discharge summaries. Prior to that, he served as executive director of enterprise business and data services at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Michael holds an MBA ('17) from Rice University, a master's in negotiation and conflict resolution from Harvard Business School, a B.S. in computer information systems from Purdue University, and has completed the Executive Development Program at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

PANEL II: Predictive Analytics and Patient Experience



PARIN SHAH, M.D.

Founder and Managing Partner, Emerge Healthcare Group

Parin Shah is a board-certified emergency medicine physician, entrepreneur and healthcare executive based in Houston, Texas. He is the founder and managing partner of Emerge Healthcare Group, a network of freestanding emergency rooms across South Texas known for delivering high-quality, compassionate, patient-centered care and strong operational performance. Under his leadership, the organization has grown significantly and is being acquired in a transaction valued at approximately \$100 million. Dr. Shah is deeply committed to philanthropy, education and mentorship, with ongoing support for academic institutions and healthcare initiatives. He values collaboration, integrity and service, and is passionate about building organizations that positively impact both. He lives in Houston with his wife, a fellow physician-entrepreneur, and their three children.



TOM VO, M.D.

CEO and Chairman of the Board, Nutex Health

Tom Vo brings more than 30 years of expertise in the business of medicine to Nutex Health, having been instrumental in the startup and management of more than 30 specialty hospitals and emergency centers across the U.S. In 2020, Dr. Vo received the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® award and went on to become a national finalist. In 2025, he was named "Most Admired CEO" by the Houston Business Journal. Dr. Vo graduated from Kent State in 1992 and Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine in 1996, completed his emergency medicine residency at William Beaumont Hospital in 1999, and received an MBA from Rice Business in 2004.



ALI HAIDER

Founder, President and CEO, Lilia AI

Ali Haider is a medical technology entrepreneur, scientist and inventor serving as founder, president and CEO of Lilia AI, Inc., a company developing AI-powered medical devices. Lilia AI's first product is a diagnostic algorithm for brain aneurysms, with additional AI tools for stroke diagnosis and the clinical radiology workflow. Haider's background spans medicine, engineering and business – a combination aligned with modern healthcare technology. He is pursuing an M.S. in computer science from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA in entrepreneurship at Rice Business. He completed three years of medical school at Texas A&M College of Medicine and earned an Honors B.S. in molecular biology from the University of Texas at Arlington.



RADHA TAMERISA, M.D.

Founder, Katy Integrative Gastroenterology

Radha A. Tamerisa, MD, MBA, ABOM, is a double board-certified gastroenterologist and obesity medicine specialist with more than 20 years of experience as a physician and private practice owner. A Rice University Executive MBA alumna, she serves as chairwoman of American Gastro Health, guiding strategic growth, physician alignment and operational excellence across multi-site practices. Dr. Tamerisa founded Katy Integrative Gastroenterology, recognized for clinical excellence and advanced care delivery. She also recently opened the Advanced Integrative Metabolic Institute, an innovative model integrating metabolic health, obesity medicine and technology-driven care. Her work focuses on leveraging technology to improve clinical decision-making and patient-centered outcomes.



EDDIE LEE PATTON JR., M.D. – MODERATOR

Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurology and Neurosurgery, University of Texas

Eddie Patton is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology with additional expertise in neuromuscular disorders. He is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at UT McGovern Medical School and currently practices at UT Health Neurosciences-Memorial City. He was recently appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. Dr. Patton is actively engaged with AI's impact on healthcare, advising the Texas Medical Association Committee on Health Information Technology and Augmented Intelligence. He chairs the Harris County Medical Society AI committee.

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Together, We Will Lead the Future of Healthcare.



Our Healthcare Education Portfolio

Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Management

BEST FOR: Healthcare professionals seeking immediate impact without full MBA commitment.

- 10-month, in-person program designed for working professionals
- Complete a work-related project tied to organizational priorities
- Apply learning in real time – creating value during the program

MBA with Healthcare Specialization

BEST FOR: High-potential healthcare professionals pursuing advanced development or pivoting into healthcare.

Healthcare specialization available across on-campus MBA formats:

- Full-Time
- Professional Evening/Weekend
- Hybrid
- Executive

Gain deep sector expertise while applying business fundamentals in your role.

Custom Executive Education

BEST FOR: Organizations addressing leadership or transformation at scale.

Custom programs focus on strategic, operational and leadership challenges.

Delivery on campus or onsite.

Sample Curriculum Topics

Build core business and leadership capabilities through courses such as:

- Healthcare Strategy
- Cost Analysis in Healthcare
- Health Insurance in the U.S.
- Customer-Focused Strategy for Healthcare
- Analytics in Healthcare
- Healthcare Operations Lab
- AI and Healthcare Strategy

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