



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Chris McNamara (703) 660-9536  
mcnamara1124@gmail.com

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Session Panelists Announced for NAVCP 2019 Vision Health Summit in Washington, DC**

*Hotel Room Reservation Deadline is March 22*

**Washington, D.C., March 13, 2019** – The National Association of Vision Care Plans (NAVCP) today announced the subject matter expert panelists that will address healthcare industry trends, telehealth/telemedicine and disruptive technology in vision care, the skyrocketing incidence of myopia and the important role vision health plays in achieving overall health at its upcoming 2019 Vision Health Summit, April 14-16.

Summit sessions and panelists are:

#### **Session 1: 2019: #AllAboutThePatient**

Take a look at anticipated managed care trends for 2019 and they all have a common theme: Connect with the patient. The move from fee for service to value-based reimbursement is forcing the issue as never before. Where does managed vision care fit into current patient-centric trends?

- Marge Axelrad, Senior Vice President/Editorial Director, *VisionMonday* and VMAIL
- Bart Foster, Managing Director, Sanitas Advisors

#### **Session 2: Better Living Through Technology?**

Telehealth. Telemedicine. Online refraction. EHRs. BlockChain. Artificial Intelligence. These digital technologies and more are disrupting healthcare and in turn allowing patients to own a bigger stake in their health care. Are they improving disease diagnosis and clinical outcomes?

- Soroush Abbaspour, PhD, MBA, Program Director, BlockChain for Healthcare, Innovation & Solution Incubation, IBM Corporation; Program Director, Columbia-IBM Center for Blockchain and Data Transparency
- Craig Kasten, CEO and Managing Partner, SKYGEN USA
- Keith Thompson, CEO, Telmedix, LLC

### **Session 3: A Closer Look at Myopia**

Myopia prevalence is increasing in the U.S. and worldwide. About 41.6 percent of Americans are now nearsighted, up from 25 percent in 1971. Researchers project almost 50 percent of the world population will be myopic by 2050.<sup>1</sup> What is causing this staggering growth in incidence?

- Thomas Aller, OD, FBCLA, Visiting Scholar, University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry; Adjunct Professor, University of Houston College of Optometry; Editor, Managemyopia.org
- Dr. Gary Gerber, Co-Founder, Chief Myopia Reduction Officer, Treehouse Eyes
- Matt Oerding, CEO & Co-Founder, Treehouse Eyes

### **Session 4: Vision Health: A Full Seat at the Table**

CDC estimates 61 million U.S. adults are at high risk for serious vision loss, and the annual economic impact of major vision problems among Americans older than 40 is more than \$145 billion.<sup>2</sup> Why isn't vision care more of a critical health concern for all stakeholders?

- Sandra S. Block, OD, M Ed, MPH, FAAO, FCOVD, FNAP, Professor; Medical Director, School-Based Clinics; Director of School-Based Research, Illinois College of Optometry
- Edwin C. Marshall, OD, MS, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Optometry and Public Health, Indiana University

[Full 2019 NAVCP Vision Health Summit agenda.](#)

NAVCP announced in February that former Global Brand Innovation Leader at Procter & Gamble FutureWorks Dustin Garis will deliver the keynote address at this year's summit.

According to the association, 2019 Vision Health Summit room reservations must be made by no later than March 22 to secure the preferred conference rates (based on availability). Summit registration information is available at [this link](#).

### **About NAVCP**

NAVCP is a nonprofit association serving as a unified voice for the managed vision care industry. The association provides a forum for cooperative industry collaboration on initiatives that work to preserve and strengthen consumer access to affordable vision insurance and benefits. NAVCP member companies operate extensive networks of vision care providers in all 50 states. Those networks cover approximately 170 Million (53 percent) Americans.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nei.nih.gov/content/myopia-close-look-efforts-turn-back-growing-problem>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/a0726-vision-health.html>