



## **Health Care Leaders Convene in Kansas City, Mo. to Discuss Recommended Actions to Solve Nation's Primary Care Crisis**

*Third "Critical Conversation" on Transforming Primary Care System via Enhanced Role for RNs to be Held at Children's Mercy Kansas City on March 17*

**Kansas City, Mo. (March 8, 2017)** – Mounting pressures, including more than 50 percent of Americans with a chronic condition and many with multiple illnesses, are rendering the nation's primary care system inadequate to meet the population's needs. On March 17 in Kansas City, healthcare and community leaders will gather for the third in a series of regional critical conversations to share actionable recommendations on the pivotal role the nation's 3.7 million registered nurses (RNs) can play in alleviating the pressures on primary care.

Co-hosted by the American Academy of Nursing and Children's Mercy Kansas City, "Critical Conversation: RNs – Partners in Transforming Primary Care" will feature two panels and an audience comprised of health care and community leaders. The discussion will center on recommendations generated by leaders in nursing, primary care, healthcare delivery, philanthropy, social work, government and academia who participated in the [Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation](#) Conference on Preparing Registered Nurses for Enhanced Roles in Primary Care. ([Read the recommendations.](#)) At the Kansas City event, leaders will discuss practical solutions for moving these recommendations forward, and highlight replicable models of nursing education and practice that enhance RNs role as partners in delivering primary care.

"Over the course of several decades, the core of nursing has shifted from primary care in communities to acute care in hospitals," said American Academy of Nursing President Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. "But the current need for primary care is greater than ever. These recommendations are critical for leaders of nursing schools, primary care practices and health systems. We must make changes in all of these settings if RNs are to be part of the solution to our primary care crisis."

"We're excited to partner with the American Academy of Nursing to lead this important discussion about the enhanced role RNs will play in our nation's primary care system," said Karen Cox, PhD, RN, PPCNP-BC, FACHE, FAAN, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer at Children's Mercy Kansas City and President-Elect of the Academy. "Together, we must reimagine the role of nurses in primary care nationwide."

"The forward momentum in primary care means we are moving in the right direction, toward higher value care that is focused on improving the health of the public," said Macy Foundation President George Thibault, MD. "But we have a long way to go. We simply can't meet the primary care needs of the nation unless registered nurses are part of the solution, and we must prepare them appropriately and then use them for this role."

The March 17 event will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Children's Mercy Adele Hall Campus, 2401 Gillham Rd., Kansas City, Mo. **To register, visit** [www.childrensmercy.org/educationprograms](http://www.childrensmercy.org/educationprograms) (Scroll to "Critical Conversation"). Panelists will include:

## Panel 1: RNs - Partners in Transforming Primary Care

**Moderator:** Karen Cox, PhD, RN, PPCNP-BC, FACHE, FAAN, President-Elect, American Academy of Nursing and Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Children's Mercy Kansas City

### Panelists:

- Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, President, American Academy of Nursing and Dean, Columbia School of Nursing
- Bruce Bagley, MD, FAAFP, Senior Advisor, Professional Satisfaction and Practice Sustainability, American Medical Association
- Margaret Flinter, PhD, APRN, FAAN, Senior Vice President and Clinical Director, Community Health Center, Inc.

## Panel 2: Social Determinants of Health in Primary Care

**Moderator:** Carol Kemper, PhD, RN, CPHQ, CPPS, Vice President, Quality and Safety, Children's Mercy Kansas City

### Panelists:

- Karen Cox, PhD, RN, PPCNP-BC, FACHE, FAAN, President-Elect, American Academy of Nursing and Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Children's Mercy Kansas City
- Anne Edwards, MD, FAAP, Senior Vice President, Department of Primary Care and Subspecialty Pediatrics, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Ma'ata Lipford, RN, MBA, CCM, Senior Administrative Director – Care Continuum Integrated Care Solutions, Children's Mercy Kansas City
- Rupal Gupta, MD, FAAP, Medical Director, Operation Breakthrough, General Academic Pediatrics, Children's Mercy Kansas City

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### About the American Academy of Nursing:

The American Academy of Nursing ([www.AANnet.org](http://www.AANnet.org)) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,400 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care. Follow the Academy on Twitter at [@AAN\\_Nursing](https://twitter.com/AAN_Nursing).

### About Children's Mercy Kansas City

Founded in 1897, Children's Mercy is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. With not-for-profit hospitals in Missouri and Kansas, and numerous specialty clinics in both states, Children's Mercy provides the highest level of care for children from birth through the age of 21. *U.S. News & World Report* has repeatedly ranked Children's Mercy as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." For the fourth time in a row, Children's Mercy has achieved Magnet nursing designation, awarded to fewer than seven percent of all hospitals nationally, for excellence in quality care. Its faculty of more than 700 pediatric subspecialists and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. Thanks to generous philanthropic and volunteer support, Children's Mercy provides medical care to every child who passes through its doors, regardless of a family's ability to pay. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit [childrensmercy.org](http://childrensmercy.org). For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).