

Driving healthcare toward greater value with innovation and laboratory medicine



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The Executive Leadership Exchange, or ELX, is a premier educational event for forward-thinking, outcome-focused, health-centered professionals. Hosted by the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program, ELX features a two-day inaugural event virtually on Oct. 3-4 with on-demand access thereafter through Oct 31, convening top leaders across healthcare to share best practices regarding current trends and evolving capabilities for measurably better healthcare.

The event has relevance across healthcare disciplines including but not limited to laboratorians, clinicians, administrators, and industry professionals – who are seeking insights on maximizing value and wellness. Outcomes and key takeaways from this event will help shape the future of healthcare.

During an ELX pre-event forum, Fawn Lopez, publisher emeritus of Modern Healthcare, had the opportunity to speak with a group of esteemed healthcare leaders who are driving innovation forward at their organizations and beyond. They include:

- Shaun Francis, CEO of Medcan Healthcare Inc., a Canadian health and wellness company
- Rory McCrimmon, dean of medicine at the University of Dundee, Scotland
- Amy Perry, president and chief operating officer of Banner Health, based in Phoenix

During the forum, participants engaged in dynamic discussions spanning a wide spectrum of topics, including the secrets to success at their organizations, the strategic value of laboratory medicine, and achieving great outcomes in motivating teams, facilitating partnerships and driving innovative best practices.



For Perry of Banner Health, a “one-team approach” driven by purpose and with no silos is critical to success and “a huge driver of culture and innovation.” Banner Health, a non-profit health system that operates 30 hospitals across six states, also embraces the important principle of a ‘just culture’ where team members can ask any question and offer any feedback without fear of retribution so that important learnings don’t get buried.

“When you’re allowed to question processes that may be traditionally considered the best parts of the organization, but your voice is respected,” Perry shared, “that creates the ability to really challenge what we’ve been doing, hear diverse voices and solutions, and inspire innovation.”

At the University of Dundee, Scotland, McCrimmon, learned that “if you want to achieve impact, you need teams, and those teams can’t be just within your own institution.” That collaboration – with industry partners, other institutions, and government entities such as the U.K.’s National Health Service – is key to creating a culture that inspires ambition, rewards change and makes an impact.

Francis of Medcan Healthcare, a global leader in executive and employee health and wellness, believes that for success “we must have a purpose, which is to help people live a longer, happier, healthier life by hopefully reducing their risk of cancer and heart disease through advanced health screening tools.”

THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

During the forum, Lopez asked the participants to share advice with other leaders who have yet to maximize the strategic value of laboratory medicine.

“Healthcare has always relied on laboratory medicine in the modern era,” said Francis. “But I think what’s exciting is how much more we can discover from lab samples – whether that’s all the biomarkers we’re measuring on a preventive basis or all the exciting work genetically on cancer and how we might literally, from a lab sample, be able to determine whether you have cancer far before other means would discover it.”

Banner Health’s Perry believes “we will see a lot more in the future with strategic lab medicine, with AI, our ability to digest larger data sets, to look for things that help us make better decisions, including what treatments we apply.”

The potential of AI was extolled by McCrimmon, who thinks it has the potential to transform the strategic value of laboratory medicine. “We do about 750,000 X-rays in the world every year, of which 80% are normal,” he said. “If an AI system could filter out the normal, then our radiologists could be working on the abnormal. Same with pathology. That frees up so much time and takes away costs that can be a huge obstacle.”

THE TEAM APPROACH TO TRANSFORMATION

Lopez closed out the forum by asking the participants to share insights on transforming outcomes and sustaining high-performing teams.

“We must agree on where we’re going,” Perry said, making sure to align teams on the most important focuses. “Is it greater speed, greater accuracy, greater efficiency, greater impact? What kind of transformational thinking are we looking for in any one of those areas?” before beginning to execute them.

For Francis, transformation requires leaders to keep pushing on the innovation front, challenging team members to think

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about what’s possible. “Then, leadership should reward that because it’s inherently riskier than sitting back,” Francis said. “That would be my advice for leaders: If you are sitting back, eventually, you’ll be in the back.”

At the University of Dundee, the medical school is adopting immersive 4- to 5-week programs such as Agents of Change, which empowers students to use their innovative ideas to make a difference. This gets the students acclimated to the cultural change they’re working towards of “trying to make a difference and not just service delivery,” McCrimmon said.

The 2023 Executive Leadership Exchange was created in partnership with the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program, a globally renowned collaboration of eight leading healthcare organizations that span diverse facets of healthcare including quality, economics, policy, governance, and laboratory medicine. Each year, the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards recognize teams who collaborate across disciplines and transform healthcare delivery and ultimately patient lives – while recognizing the role and value of laboratory medicine in elevating patient care.

The Executive Leadership Exchange’s robust agenda of healthcare leaders and innovators includes highlights of the avant-garde thinking and collaboration across traditional silos that the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards recognize. During the event, leading winners of the prestigious global program will share the exceptional outcomes attained by their multi-disciplinary clinical teams. This includes a presentation by David Weiss, head of player matters at the NBA, and Christina Mack, chief scientific officer at IQVIA Real World Solutions, on how they conceived and executed the NBA Bubble’s “Safe and informed population health management through laboratory medicine,” during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a 2022 global winner of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards.

To learn more about the innovative programming and education opportunities at ELX, visit healthcareelx.com and register to attend virtually. The event is being planned in accordance with ACCENT standards and policies. Attendees can submit for approval of up to 13 ACCENT continuing education credits.

Join us at the Executive Leadership Exchange, a two-day virtual event Oct. 3-4, 2023.
Visit healthcareelx.com to register.