

## President's Speaker Series: Keynote Speaker Biography

Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities  
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**Tracy W. Gaudet, MD**  
**Executive Director**  
**Veterans Health Administration's National Office of**  
**Patient Centered Care & Cultural Transformation**

Tracy W. Gaudet, MD, became Executive Director of the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) National Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation in January 2011.

The National Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation (OPCC&CT) is charged with leading VHA's transformation to provide personalized, proactive, patient driven care to United States Veterans.



This undertaking represents one of the largest evolutions in the philosophy and process for healthcare delivery ever undertaken by an organized healthcare system. Dr. Gaudet is responsible for creating a structure, employing and training staff, establishing Centers of Innovation and guiding and supporting the transformation of every VHA Network and healthcare facility.

Under the direction of Dr. Gaudet, the OPCC&CT office has made significant progress toward VA's goal for personalized, proactive, and patient driven health care. Through 2013, Dr. Gaudet and her staff have achieved some significant milestones towards transformation including the development of foundational concepts and framework to educate VHA about patient centered principles. The Office has partnered with nine Centers of Innovation which fuel a national innovation engine for the country. Additionally, the Office has directly supported local transformational efforts in each of the 23 Veterans Integrated Service Networks and to more than 50% of VHA medical centers, providing the support they need to build groundbreaking programs that can then be disseminated nationally. The OPCC&CT is working with these medical centers to measure the outcomes of their projects and to identify those initiatives that have had the greatest impact on cultural transformation.

Transforming from problem-based disease care to patient-centered health care is an opportunity unparalleled in the history of medicine. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century VHA is a healthcare system that has the Veteran at the center, and begins with *their* vision of health and *their* goals. It links the Veteran's personalized health plan to what matters to them in their lives, and it supports them in acquiring the skills and resources they need to succeed in making sustainable changes in their health and life. Moving to a patient-centered approach will require a culture change within VHA. Cultural transformation is a tremendous undertaking, and is a process that takes years. Culture is individual and collective behavior, based on experience and incentives. VHA must create new experiences for both Veterans and staff, experiences that result in a deep understanding of what 21<sup>st</sup> Century Healthcare can be. VA will work to align incentives to support these new

healthcare behaviors and this new system of care. Transformation is profound, fundamental and permanent change, which results from sustained experiences and incentives.

#### **ABOUT DR. GAUDET:**

Dr. Gaudet came to the VA from Duke University Health System where she served as Executive Director of Duke Integrative Medicine, a position she held from 2001 to 2010. Under her leadership, Duke Integrative Medicine created a state-of-the-art healthcare facility dedicated to the transformation of medicine through the exploration, demonstration and research of new models of patient centered care. Prior to her work at Duke, Dr. Gaudet was the founding executive director of the University of Arizona Program in Integrative Medicine, leading the design of the country's first comprehensive curriculum in this new field, launching a two-year full-time fellowship and then creating the two year distance learning fellowship. In addition, Dr. Gaudet co-founded the Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine and Chaired the Membership Committee (2002-2004), as well as served on the Steering, Executive, Education and Policy Committees.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

- Executive Director VHA National Office of Patient Centered Care & Cultural Transformation: Veterans Health Administration, Washington, DC, 1/2011-present
- Executive Director of Duke Integrative Medicine: Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, 2001-2011.
- Director of Health Affairs: Duke Center for Integrative Medicine, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, 2000-2001.
- Founding Executive Director: University of Arizona Program in Integrative Medicine, Tucson, AZ, 1996-2000.

#### **EDUCATION:**

Dr. Gaudet received her BA degree in Psychology and Sociology from Duke University, her MD degree from Duke University, and she completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas in San Antonio. She is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and regularly teaches and writes for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS:**

Dr. Gaudet is a recognized leader in the transformation of healthcare. She speaks nationally through both public and professional venues ranging from The Institutes of Medicine and Department of Defense events to The Oprah Show. She has been featured in numerous national media, including the PBS nationally acclaimed special entitled "The New Medicine," and was named by Shape magazine as one of the eleven women who shape the world. In July of 2011, Dr. Gaudet was recognized as one of the "Top 25 Women in Healthcare 2011" by Modern Healthcare. In October of 2013, Dr. Gaudet was featured as a Game Changer in Fortune Magazine. She has been named the recipient of the 2013 Bravewell Leadership Award for her significant contributions to advancing the field of medicine. The award recognizes national leaders who are resilient change agents and have a compelling vision for the future of medicine that inspire and encourage others. Dr. Gaudet is also the author of *Consciously Female*, a book on integrative medicine and women's health, and *Body, Soul and Baby*, both published by Bantam Books

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