



CHARLES C. LEIGHTON, MD MEMORIAL

# lecture

## Bringing Science to Policy to Achieve Health Equity: *A Congresswoman's Journey*

**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022**  
9:30–10:30 a.m. ET

**PRESENTED BY**  
**Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, MSN, MPH**

*Sponsored by the Charles C. Leighton, MD Memorial Lecture Fund*



### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

#### **Lauren Underwood, MSN, MPH**

Congresswoman Lauren Underwood serves Illinois' 14th Congressional District and was sworn into the 116th U.S. Congress on January 3, 2019. She is the first woman, first person of color, and first millennial to represent her community in Congress. She is also the youngest African American woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. She serves on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the House Committee on Appropriations. Congresswoman Underwood co-founded and co-chairs the Black Maternal Health Caucus, and serves on the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. She is a member of the Future Forum, a group of young Democratic Members of Congress committed to standing up for the next generation of Americans, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the LGBT Equality Caucus. As a strong supporter of addressing the gun violence epidemic, Congresswoman Underwood is a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Prior to her election to Congress, she worked with a Medicaid plan in Chicago to ensure that it provided high-quality, cost-efficient care, and also served as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As a career public servant at HHS, she helped implement the Affordable Care Act—broadening access for those on Medicare, improving health care quality, and reforming private insurance.

### PROGRAM

#### **WELCOME REMARKS**

**David Grande, MD, MPA**, *Director of Policy, Penn LDI; Associate Professor, Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine*

#### **VIDEO INTRODUCTION**

**Leighton Family**

#### **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS**

**David Grande, MD, MPA**

#### **MODERATED DISCUSSION**

**Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14)**  
**Interviewed by Antonia Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
*Margaret Bond Simon Dean, Penn Nursing; Professor, Family and Community Health, Penn Nursing*



#### **AUDIENCE Q&A**

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

**David Grande, MD, MPA**



# CHARLES C. LEIGHTON, MD MEMORIAL lecture

## ABOUT CHARLES C. LEIGHTON, MD

Since 1994, this annual lecture has honored the memory of the late Charles C. Leighton, MD (1938–93), through a generous endowment from the Merck Company Foundation. Dr. Leighton was Senior Vice President of Administration, Planning, and Science Policy at Merck Research Laboratories for nearly three decades, where he was responsible for the international regulatory approval of drugs for Merck and Co., Inc.

Dr. Leighton distinguished himself through his leadership and vision, and his gift for galvanizing and harmonizing scientists, company management, and government officials behind a common goal—delivering breakthrough medicines and vaccines to the people who need them around the world. Dr. Leighton was widely regarded in making regulatory affairs an integral part of every drug company's operation and product development strategy, becoming the best in the world in his field and a model for other companies and regulatory agencies to emulate.

*This annual lecture brings together policymakers, corporate leaders, researchers, students, and faculty for substantive discussions on leading health policy issues.*