**Panelist Biographies:**

**Cora Abundo** is a Transition Guide Nurse at Suburban Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine. Cora has been specifically working on transitions of care from the hospital to home setting, transition to home health or to skilled nursing facility to prevent readmissions through patient education, enhancement of discharge instructions, improved understanding of Palliative Care/Advanced Care Planning, and improvement of communication with various community resources and services available to patients. Cora has a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from Centro Escolar University in Manila, Philippines and a BLS instructor since 2013. Cora has been a nurse for the past 28yrs. With an experience in cardiac care and nursing management. Cora is an active member of Suburban Hospital Palliative Care/Ethics Committee as well as with Diversity and Inclusion Council.

**Kate Lu** is the Clinic Director of the Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic, one of Montgomery County’s safety net clinics, located in Gaithersburg Maryland. She is a licensed clinical social worker with a background in mental health issues from an Asian cultural perspective. Areas of expertise include non-pharmacological treatment for stress and anxiety disorder, chronic pain. Kate has a special interest in providing support for families with children on the autism spectrum and families with loved ones with Alzheimer's Disease. She is a graduate of Washington University School of Social Work.

**Judy Peres** is a clinical social worker and health policy analyst. She brings over four decades of experience and expertise in the theoretical and practical aspects of death and dying. Her policy work uses her expertise in the intersection of palliative care, hospice and long-term services and supports. In her private psychotherapy practice, she works to assist Medicare beneficiaries in navigating the transitions of aging. Judy serves as a member of Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Approaching Death: Addressing Key End of Life Issues, which issue the 2015 report, *Dying in America*. Her consulting clients have included the Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Altarum Institute's, Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness, the Center for Practical Bioethics and the National Institute of Nursing Research. In addition to her work with CaringMatters, Judith is on the Board of Directors of the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network and is a Commissioner of Aging for Montgomery County, Maryland.

**Rachael M. Ruffin** is a Program Specialist with Montgomery County Maryland Government. She works daily to combat health disparities and inequities in underserved and disadvantaged populations. Her work continually awards her with opportunities to pursue equity in public and private healthcare organizations, hospitals, and community-based non-profits. Rachael believes in giving back to her community. She is a member of the Young Professionals Board of Girls on the Run of Montgomery County (GOTR), an organization dedicated towards increasing self-esteem in young women through the power of physical activity. She also serves as a volunteer for the children’s ministry at her church and regularly participates in projects dedicated towards community service. Rachael holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Tennessee State University and a Master of Science in Public Health from Meharry Medical College.

**Anita Tarzian** is an Ethics and Research Consultant in Baltimore, Maryland. She is Program Coordinator for the Maryland Healthcare Ethics Committee Network (MHECN), which is administered by the Law and Health Care Program at the University of Maryland School of Law. A former surgical oncology nurse and hospice nurse, she is currently Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in the Department of Family and Community Health. Her professional focus has been in clinical and research ethics, including clinical ethics consultation in acute and long-term care settings, ethics education, palliative care, hospice, the influence of culture on health care decision-making, and disability rights. As MHECN’s Program Coordinator, she serves as a resource for health care ethics committee members in Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region.  Dr. Tarzian received a Doctorate in nursing research (ethics track) and a Masters in Intercultural Nursing from the University of Maryland School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Rush University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Knox College. From 1990 – 92, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in La Descubierta, Dominican Republic, where she remains involved as a volunteer for the non-profit UnaVida. Last year, she was elected as a Hastings Center Fellow.

**Stephen B. Thomas** is the founding director of the University of Maryland Center for Health Equity (M-CHE), an NIH Center of Excellence on Race, Ethnicity and Health Disparities Research funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. He is a full professor in the Department of Health Services Administration in the School of Public Health. Dr. Thomas is an internationally recognized scholar on efforts to use community engaged interventions designed to break the cycle of risk factors associated with premature illness and death from chronic diseases to eliminate race and health disparities. In 2014, he was appointed by Governor Martin O’Malley to the Board of the Maryland Health Care Commission.