



INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF HEALTHCARE
ENGINEERING

IFHE 2026 WORLD CONGRESS

Agenda

A preview of the global gathering for healthcare facilities, engineering, and design

DATES

October 18-20, 2026

LOCATION

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

HOSTED ALONGSIDE

Healthcare Design Conference + Expo
AMFP Symposium

WELCOME

Welcome to the World Congress

IFHE • WALT VERNON, PRESIDENT**A Global Conversation, Anchored in New Orleans**

On behalf of the International Federation of Healthcare Engineering, it is my privilege to invite you to the 2026 IFHE World Congress in New Orleans. This is the one moment, every two years, when the engineers, facility leaders, and designers who quietly carry the weight of healthcare delivery in every country come together to learn from one another and shape the future of care.

In 2026 we are co-located with the Healthcare Design Conference and the AMFP Symposium — bringing owners, designers, and operators into the same room. Come ready to contribute. Your voice belongs in these conversations.

Walt Vernon • President, International Federation of Healthcare Engineering

AMFP • BOB FELDBAUER, PRESIDENT**Where Owners and Operators Meet the World**

On behalf of the Association of Medical Facility Professionals, I am thrilled to welcome our IFHE colleagues and the global healthcare facilities community to New Orleans. AMFP members are owners and operators — we live with the consequences of every design decision, every system that does or doesn't perform when it matters. That perspective is exactly what makes the World Congress so valuable for us, and for our international partners.

Sit at a table where you don't know anyone. Trade a business card with someone whose accent isn't yours. The relationships you build this week pay dividends for the next decade.

Bob Feldbauer • President, Association of Medical Facility Professionals

EMERALD • JENNIFER SILVIS**A Convening Designed to Move Our Industry Forward**

On behalf of Emerald and the Healthcare Design Conference + Expo team, it is my privilege to welcome the IFHE World Congress and AMFP Symposium to New Orleans. Co-locating these three communities is a deliberate commitment to reshape how our industry learns, connects, and advances.

You will find shared keynotes, joint sessions, an expanded Expo, and the kind of social moments that only New Orleans can deliver. Come for what you need; leave with what you didn't expect.

Jennifer Silvis • Emerald • Healthcare Design Conference + Expo



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The 2026 IFHE World Congress

A preview of the global gathering for healthcare facilities, engineering, and design

The IFHE World Congress is the international gathering of professionals who plan, design, engineer, operate, and maintain healthcare facilities worldwide. Held every two years, it brings federation member societies, sponsors, partners, and delegates together to share research, exchange practice, and shape the global standards that protect patients, staff, and visitors in care settings around the world.

The 2026 Congress is hosted in New Orleans in deliberate co-location with the Healthcare Design Conference + Expo and the AMFP Symposium — a single week of cross-disciplinary, cross-border learning where owners, operators, designers, and engineers share keynotes, panels, an Expo floor, and a full social program.

Dates, venue, and location

Sunday, October 18 through Tuesday, October 20, 2026, in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Co-located with HCD and AMFP at a single host venue. Served by Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY).

Who should attend

- › Healthcare facility directors, plant operations leaders, and chief engineers
- › Owners, capital planning leaders, and owners' representatives
- › Architects, engineers, and design-build partners delivering healthcare infrastructure worldwide
- › National healthcare-engineering society leaders, IFHE delegates, researchers, educators, and emerging professionals

What's included with registration

- › All Sunday–Tuesday IFHE keynotes, breakout sessions, and the formal Opening Ceremony
- › Access to the shared Expo Hall and the IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall
- › Sunday IFHE-funded Networking Lunch, Monday and Tuesday Expo Hall lunches, daily breakfasts
- › HCD Gallery Reception and HCD Welcome Reception
- › International Building Awards & Closing Events

Registration

Registration is now open through the official IFHE 2026 World Congress (HCD portal).

Event Support from IFHE Ambassadors

IFHE Ambassadors help attendees and speakers navigate the World Congress and New Orleans — assisting with translations, directions to sessions, booths, and social events. For translation support before the event, join the IFHE 2026 WhatsApp group via Chief Ambassador Paola Tocci at +1 917-670-7152. During the event, Ambassadors are at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center: 1st floor registration desk, 2nd floor information desk, and the IFHE Pavilion.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

The Congress at a Glance

Sunday through Tuesday • A consolidated view of every session, meal, and signature event of the World Congress program. Refer to the day-by-day detail that follows for speakers and session descriptions.

DAY	TIME	CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	PAGE
Sun, Oct 18	7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Meal	Networking Breakfast	Ballroom Lobby	8
	8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Plenary Keynote	Welcome + Opening Keynote (All Badges)	Great Hall	8
	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	2026 IFHE World Congress Opening Ceremony	IFHE Stage	8
	11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Session	One Vision, Many Perspectives: Leading Complex Teams Toward Collective Success	IFHE Stage	9
	11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Session	AI and the Future of the Built Environment: Strategy, Transformation, and What Comes Next	IFHE Stage	9
	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Meal	Networking Lunch (IFHE Badges)	IFHE Hall	10
	12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Session	Mega-Project Campus Development: Equipment Planning from Operations to Project Management	IFHE Stage	10
	1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Session	Flexibility, Standardization, and the Cost of Customization	IFHE Stage	10
	1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Session	From Strategy to Performance: Executive Strategies for Operational Readiness	IFHE Stage	11
	2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Session	Building for What's Next: Future-Ready Healthcare Campuses by Design	IFHE Stage	11

DAY	TIME	CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	PAGE
	2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Session	Two Hemispheres, One Patient: A Global Conversation on the Future of Healthcare Design	IFHE Stage	12
	3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	Session	Latin America: Healing Spaces, Use of Place, and Palliative Care Architecture	IFHE Stage	12
	4:15 – 4:45 p.m.	Event	HCD Gallery Reception (All Badges)	To Be Announced	13
	4:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Event	HCD Welcome Reception (All Badges)	To Be Announced	13
	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Event	IFHE/AMFP Cocktail Reception – House of Blues (Ticketed Event)	225 Decatur St, New Orleans, LA 70130	13
Mon, Oct 19	7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Meal	Networking Breakfast (All Badges)	Ballroom Lobby	14
	8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Plenary Keynote	Monday Morning Keynote (All Badges)	Great Hall	14
	8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	IFHE Plenary	Powerful Conversations: Connection Drives Performance	IFHE Stage	15
	9:15 – 9:45 a.m.	Session	Healthcare Security: A Vital Design Issue	IFHE Stage	15
	9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Session	Healthcare Facilities for the Future: Lessons from Japan	IFHE Stage	16
	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Expo	Trade Show Opens / Lunch Provided (All Badges)	Expo Hall	—
	11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	IFHE Exchange Pavilion	IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall	Expo Hall	—
	11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Session	› IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Data-Driven Decision-Making Across the Hospital Asset Lifecycle: How to Do More with Less	Expo Hall	17
	12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Session	› IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Balancing Sustainability Goals with Water Safety in Hospitals	Expo Hall	17

DAY	TIME	CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	PAGE
	1:00 – 1:45 p.m.	Session	› IFHE Exchange Pavilion: \$2 Trillion Invested: Why Is the Average Operating Margin Between 1-3%?	Expo Hall	18
	2:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Event	2026 HCD Breaking Through Competition (All Badges)	Great Hall	18
	3:45 – 4:15 p.m.	Session	Healthcare at the Crossroads: Capital Pressure and the Future of Facility Investment	IFHE Stage	19
	4:15 – 4:45 p.m.	Session	From Reactive to Ready: How Digital Healthcare Infrastructure Supports Uptime and Business Continuity	IFHE Stage	19
	4:45 – 5:15 p.m.	Session	The Infrastructure of Trust: Engineering the “Big Blue Chair” Protocol	IFHE Stage	20
	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Networking	HCD Annual Networking Party (All Badges)	To Be Announced	20
Tue, Oct 20	7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Meal	Networking Breakfast (All Badges)	Ballroom Lobby	21
	8:15 – 8:45 a.m.	Session	Equipment as Infrastructure: Bridging Capital Projects and Operations	IFHE Stage	21
	8:45 – 9:15 a.m.	Session	Rethinking the Healthcare Footprint: Distributed Care, Scaled Performance	IFHE Stage	22
	9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Session	The Modern Operating Room: Designing and Sustaining Dependable, Adaptable, and Compliant Surgical Environments	IFHE Stage	22
	9:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Expo	Trade Show Open / Lunch Provided (All Badges)	Expo Hall	23
	9:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	IFHE Exchange Pavilion	IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall	Expo Hall	—

DAY	TIME	CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	PAGE
	9:45 – 10:30 a.m.	Session	› IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Transforming Health Through Infrastructure: The Kigutu, Burundi Story	Expo Hall	23
	10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	Session	› IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Rethinking the Healthcare Built Environment: Technologies to Watch – Part I	Expo Hall	24
	11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Session	› IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Rethinking the Healthcare Built Environment: Technologies to Watch – Part II	Expo Hall	24
	1:15 – 1:45 p.m.	Session	Leveraging Integration & AI to Unlock Untapped Potential in Healthcare Facilities	IFHE Stage	25
	1:45 – 2:15 p.m.	Session	Read the Label: What's Really Inside Healthcare Finishes	IFHE Stage	25
	2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Event	International Building Awards (45 min) & Closing Events (15 mins)	IFHE Stage	26

CONGRESS DAY 1

Sunday, October 18, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.
NETWORKING
All Attendees (IFHE, AMFP, and HCD)

Networking Breakfast

An informal breakfast welcoming IFHE, HCD, and AMFP participants to New Orleans, with time to reconnect with colleagues and meet international delegates before the opening sessions begin.

LOCATION Ballroom Lobby

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.
PLENARY KEYNOTE
All Attendees (IFHE, AMFP, and HCD)

Welcome + Opening Keynote (All Badges)

Joint opening keynote for HCD, AMFP, and IFHE that frames the week's themes, highlights key challenges for healthcare facilities globally, and sets expectations for how design, operations, and leadership intersect throughout the World Congress.

SPEAKER

TBD

LOCATION Great Hall

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
CEREMONY
IFHE Attendees

2026 IFHE World Congress Opening Ceremony

A formal opening ceremony for the 2026 IFHE World Congress featuring federation leaders, host country representatives, and international delegates. The program includes welcome remarks, recognition of member societies, and a preview of the clinical, technical, and strategic topics that anchor this year's congress.

SPEAKERS

IFHE Federation Leaders

Host Country Representatives

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Sunday, October 18, 2026 (CONT.)

11:00 – 11:30 a.m.**SESSION***IFHE Attendees***One Vision, Many Perspectives: Leading Complex Teams Toward Collective Success**

As healthcare design and construction projects grow in scale, complexity, and duration, teams increasingly include joint ventures, integrated partnerships, and “teams within teams.” This session explores practical strategies for building alignment, trust, governance, and shared purpose across diverse organizations and perspectives. Attendees will gain insights into team selection, communication, performance metrics, and overcoming silos to create cohesive leadership and stronger collaboration, turning complexity and differing perspectives into strengths that support successful outcomes.

SPEAKER

Bob Feldbauer — Chief Program Delivery Officer, Children's Health

MODERATOR

Greg Francis — Vice President, Healthcare, Jacobs

LOCATION IFHE Stage**11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****SESSION***IFHE Attendees***AI and the Future of the Built Environment: Strategy, Transformation, and What Comes Next**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the built environment through changes in operational strategy, infrastructure intelligence, workforce dynamics, predictive analytics, automation, and decision-making. This session provides a deeper examination of how AI is evolving within facility operations, engineering, and healthcare infrastructure, and where the market is heading next. You'll get practical insights into the shifts driving industry-wide transformation, including data architecture, system interoperability, operational workflows, and emerging leadership considerations. The discussion is designed for leaders seeking a clearer understanding of AI's long-term impact on the future design, operation, and management of the built environment.

SPEAKER

Carl Fleming — Healthcare Strategy & Digital Transformation, DPR

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Sunday, October 18, 2026 (CONT.)

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

HOSTED MEAL

IFHE Attendees

Networking Lunch (IFHE Badges)

IFHE-funded lunch for World Congress participants, providing dedicated time to connect with peers from other countries, compare challenges, and build relationships that support ongoing collaboration after the event.

LOCATION IFHE Hall

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

SESSION

IFHE Attendees

Mega-Project Campus Development: Equipment Planning from Operations to Project Management

Details to come

SPEAKERS

Daniel Kromis – COO & Managing Director, HSG Inc.

Renee Mueller – VP Dallas, HSG Inc.

Nick Barber, MBA, PMP – Vice President, Executive Project Manager, Children's Health

Susan Fowler – Director, Program Management, Children's Health

LOCATION IFHE Stage

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

SESSION

IFHE Attendees

Flexibility, Standardization, and the Cost of Customization

Standards help organizations decide what job needs to be done, make clear tradeoffs, and move design work faster while improving buying power and controlling cost. But healthcare facilities operate in a changing world, so designs also need enough flexibility to adapt to new products, technologies, and ways of delivering care. This session looks at how to strike the right balance between standardization and flexibility so teams avoid overdesign, protect budgets, and keep options open for the future.

SPEAKERS

Josh King – Vice President, Facilities Planning and Development, Appalachian Regional Healthcare

Lynn Murphy – Associate Vice President, Facilities Planning, UK HealthCare

Mohammad Alai – Director of Design, AdventHealth

MODERATOR

Anahita Razavi – Health Strategist and Speaker

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Sunday, October 18, 2026 (CONT.)
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.
SESSION
IFHE Attendees

From Strategy to Performance: Executive Strategies for Operational Readiness

A focused look at how healthcare executives translate strategy into operational readiness — connecting capital decisions, organizational alignment, and day-to-day facility performance. Speakers share frameworks for keeping facilities, operations, and clinical priorities moving in the same direction under pressure.

SPEAKERS

Rick Hood — President and CEO, IMH Healthcare

Sam Werschky - Assistant Vice President Planning, Design & Construction, Cook Children's Health Care System

Marc Budaus - Partner, Health Studio Practice Leader, HKS, Inc.

MODERATOR

TBA

LOCATION IFHE Stage

2:00 – 2:30 p.m.
SESSION
IFHE Attendees

Building for What's Next: Future-Ready Healthcare Campuses by Design

How do healthcare organizations make capital and building decisions today that enable tomorrow's clinical innovation, technology adoption, and long-term campus growth? Drawing on real-world experience with renovations, campus replacements, and complex phased projects — including lessons applied to the New Pediatric Campus — panelists share how they designed flexible, adaptable spaces that can pivot with new models of care and emerging technologies. Facility directors, planners, capital program leaders, and owners' reps leave with decision-making frameworks, risk-mitigation strategies, and key questions to ask before committing to major investment.

SPEAKERS

Michael Malone — Vice President of Operations, Vaughn Construction

Jen Rodosta — Executive Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Children's Health

Rachel Knox — Studio Practice Leader, Health and Partner, HKS, Inc.

MODERATOR

Judah Auld — Vice President of Preconstruction, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Sunday, October 18, 2026 (CONT.)
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.
SESSION
IFHE Attendees

Two Hemispheres, One Patient: A Global Conversation on the Future of Healthcare Design

Healthcare design is shaped by geography, culture, and climate — yet every project ultimately serves the same human being. In this candid cross-continental dialogue, two of the field's most respected architects, Ray Pentecost and Fabio Bitencourt, compare lessons learned from North and South America to explore where healthcare design is heading next. Drawing on decades of practice, research, and global advisory work, they will examine how human-centered design, sustainability, resilience, and emerging technologies are converging to reshape the patient experience worldwide. Expect a thoughtful, wide-ranging conversation on the ideas that will define healthcare environments for the next generation.

SPEAKERS

Fábio Bitencourt — Architect, Professor, and 2nd Vice President, IFHE

A. Ray Pentecost — TAMU College of Architecture and the Health Science Center

LOCATION IFHE Stage

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.
SESSION
IFHE Attendees

Latin America: Healing Spaces, Use of Place, and Palliative Care Architecture

A combined Latin American session bringing together three country presentations on healing spaces and visual narratives in Brazilian healthcare architecture, space and use of place in healthcare design, and architecture for palliative care hospitals. Speakers share how culture, place, and human experience shape healthcare environments across South America.

SPEAKERS

Ana Paula Naffah Perez — President, Brazilian Assoc. for the Development of Healthcare Buildings (ABDEH)

Luciano Monza — AADAIH (Asociación Argentina de Arquitectura e Ingeniería Hospitalaria)

Doris Vilas-Boas — President, ABDEH Bahia Chapter

MODERATOR

Fábio Bitencourt — Architect, Professor, and 2nd Vice President, IFHE

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Sunday, October 18, 2026 (CONT.)

4:15 – 4:45 p.m.
RECEPTION
All Attendees
HCD Gallery Reception (All Badges)

Reception in the HCD gallery space, giving attendees time to view featured projects and continue conversations from the day's sessions.

LOCATION To Be Announced

4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
RECEPTION
All Attendees
HCD Welcome Reception (All Badges)

Conference-wide welcome reception hosted by HCD, bringing together IFHE, AMFP, and HCD participants for networking and informal dialogue in a relaxed setting.

LOCATION To Be Announced

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
RECEPTION
Ticketed Event
IFHE/AMFP Cocktail Reception – House of Blues (Ticketed Event)

Evening cocktail reception co-hosted by IFHE and AMFP at the House of Blues. A ticketed event offering attendees a relaxed New Orleans setting to network and unwind.

LOCATION 225 Decatur St, New Orleans, LA 70130

Sponsored by Cumming

CONGRESS DAY 2

Monday, October 19, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.**NETWORKING***All Attendees***Networking Breakfast (All Badges)**

Shared breakfast for HCD, AMFP, and IFHE participants, designed to continue conversations from Sunday and help attendees connect across disciplines before the day's program begins.

LOCATION Ballroom Lobby

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.**PLENARY KEYNOTE***IFHE Attendees***Monday Morning Keynote (All Badges)**

A conference-wide keynote that surfaces emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping healthcare delivery and design, providing a common foundation for breakout discussions throughout the day.

SPEAKER

TBD

MODERATOR

TBD

LOCATION Great Hall

Monday, October 19, 2026 (CONT.)
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
IFHE PLENARY
IFHE Attendees

Powerful Conversations: Connection Drives Performance

Across healthcare facilities work, the pressure to coordinate, schedule, and deliver has crowded out the conversations that actually shape team performance. Drawing on his book *Powerful Conversations: How to Talk About What Matters Most in Work and Life*, Kyle Majchrowski opens Day 2 with a people-first look at how clarity, trust, and intentional dialogue translate directly into project outcomes across cultures, organizations, and roles. Expect a candid, interactive session that challenges leaders to look beyond process and toward the conversations their teams aren't yet having, and the performance waiting on the other side.

SPEAKER

 Kyle Majchrowski — Founder, NexIntent • Author, *Powerful Conversations*
MODERATOR

TBD

LOCATION IFHE Stage

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.
SESSION
IFHE Attendees

Healthcare Security: A Vital Design Issue

Violence, theft, and security incidents increasingly shape how healthcare environments are designed, operated, and staffed. This session explores security as a core design and infrastructure issue, not just an operational add-on, highlighting lessons from systems in the United States and Latin America. Speakers discuss how to balance openness and safety, integrate technology and human factors, and collaborate across clinical, security, and facilities teams to create environments that protect people without undermining trust.

SPEAKERS

John Demming — Market Director, Security Operations, AdventHealth • VP, IAHS

Francisco Villegas — Director de Seguridad Corporativa, Christus Muguerza

Melanie Wright — Regional Business Development Manager, HID Global

Brett Bramlett — Safety, Security & Parking Director, HH Health System

MODERATOR

Bill Navejar — President, IAHS Foundation

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Monday, October 19, 2026 (CONT.)
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
SESSION
IFHE Attendees
Healthcare Facilities for the Future: Lessons from Japan

Japan's rapidly aging population is reshaping healthcare delivery, care management, and facility needs. Drawing from Japan Facility Management Association award-winning healthcare projects, this session explores how planning, design, construction, and facility management work together across the facility lifecycle. Participants will learn how Japanese healthcare organizations are adapting their facilities for chronic care, community-based care, patient-centered environments, resilient infrastructure, infection control planning, lifecycle cost management, and sustainable operations in response to demographic change.

SPEAKER

Shiro Nitnai – Architect, Professor and Director and Fellow of JFMA

MODERATOR

Yoshihisa Hirayama – IFHE Executive Committee, PS Company Ltd.

LOCATION IFHE Stage

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
EXPO
All Badges
Trade Show Opens / Lunch Provided

The Expo Hall opens with dedicated time for attendees to explore products, services, and innovations from industry partners, with lunch provided on the show floor.

LOCATION Expo Hall

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
IFHE EXCHANGE PAVILION
All Badges
IFHE Exchange Pavilion

Three 45-minute Exchange Pavilion sessions in the HCD Expo Hall, featuring short, focused presentations on practical tools, technologies, and methodologies that support safer, more efficient healthcare facilities. Sponsors and topics for each 45-minute slot to be confirmed as the program finalizes.

LOCATION Expo Hall

Monday, October 19, 2026 (CONT.)

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.**SESSION***All Badges***IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Data-Driven Decision-Making Across the Hospital Asset Lifecycle: How to Do More with Less**

Norwegian hospitals are in a unique position, using the same software platform across construction projects, project controls, and asset management. Connecting master data, BIM, drawings, rooms, and asset information across the lifecycle creates unique opportunities to improve both project delivery and the utilization of existing facilities. The presentation will show live examples of space utilization using IoT sensors, connections between BIM and BMS systems, and AI-based analysis and prediction. Drawing on more than 20 years of experience, it demonstrates how connected project and operational data can support better investment decisions and help hospitals do more with less.

SPEAKER

Gunnar Hansen – Business Development Manager for Healthcare, Omega 365

LOCATION

IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall

12:00 – 12:45 p.m.**SESSION***All Badges***IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Balancing Sustainability Goals with Water Safety in Hospitals**

Learn how healthcare facilities can advance sustainability goals while maintaining safe water systems. This session explores practical strategies to reduce water use, minimize Legionella and HAI risks, and support healthier, more resilient environments.

SPEAKER

Stephanie Litchkowski - Northeast Business Development Manager – Specifications, Zurn Elkay

LOCATION

IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall

Monday, October 19, 2026 (CONT.)
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.
SESSION
All Badges
IFHE Exchange Pavilion: \$2 Trillion Invested: Why Is the Average Operating Margin Between 1-3%?

Healthcare systems are under pressure to modernize facilities, adopt AI, and transform care—all while operating on razor-thin margins. This panel brings together healthcare system owners and partners focused on capital development, technology, operations, and AI governance to discuss solutions top tier healthcare organizations are using to prioritize investment, manage risk, and turn transformation into measurable value.

SPEAKERS

David Tibi - CEO at TOCCorp, AI-Driven Healthcare Capital Project and Care Delivery platforms.

Charles Aunger - Group Chief Information Officer at American Hospital Dubai

Jess Langerud - Principal Program Manager, UCI Health

Melinda deHoll - Harvard Senior Executive Fellow and author of “Leading AI Adoption in Healthcare: AI Does Not Adopt Itself.”

LOCATION IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.
SHOWCASE
All Attendees
2026 HCD Breaking Through Competition (All Badges)

Signature HCD program showcasing innovative projects and ideas selected through the Breaking Through competition, with relevance for IFHE attendees interested in new models and bold concepts.

SPEAKER

TBD

MODERATOR

TBD

LOCATION Great Hall

Monday, October 19, 2026 (CONT.)

3:45 – 4:15 p.m.**SESSION***IFHE Attendees***Healthcare at the Crossroads: Capital Pressure and the Future of Facility Investment**

Capital constraints, rising construction costs, and uncertain volumes are reshaping how health systems think about facility investment. This session explores frameworks for prioritizing projects, aligning stakeholders, and balancing renewal with new growth. Speakers share lessons learned from recent projects and offer strategies to help leaders make disciplined, future-focused decisions under pressure.

SPEAKERS

Rahul Tikekar — Loring Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Barry Zuckerman – Vice President Design and Construction, Northwell Health

Christine Flaherty, FCMAA – Senior Vice President, Real Estate Development & Facilities, Catholic Health

Clayton Mitchell – Senior Vice President, Corporate Facilities and Real Estate, Yale New Haven Health

MODERATOR

TBD

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Sponsored by Loring Consulting Engineers

4:15 – 4:45 p.m.**SESSION***IFHE Attendees***From Reactive to Ready: How Digital Healthcare Infrastructure Supports Uptime and Business Continuity**

This session examines how digitized electrical and mechanical infrastructure can improve visibility, reduce downtime, and support business continuity in healthcare environments. Speakers discuss monitoring, analytics, and service strategies that move organizations from reactive maintenance toward proactive readiness, with examples of how digital tools support resilience during everyday operations and disruptive events.

SPEAKER

David Evans — Schneider Electric

MODERATOR

TBD

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Sponsored by Schneider Electric – Platinum

Monday, October 19, 2026 (CONT.)

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.
SESSION
IFHE Attendees
The Infrastructure of Trust: Engineering the “Big Blue Chair” Protocol

This session explores how trust, communication, and clear escalation pathways can be engineered into day-to-day facilities operations. Using the “Big Blue Chair” protocol as a case study, speakers show how structured huddles, visual cues, and shared expectations reduce delays, improve safety, and strengthen collaboration between clinical, facilities, and vendor teams. Attendees leave with practical steps to pilot similar trust-focused protocols in their own organizations.

SPEAKERS

Melissa Keifer — Suffolk Construction

Curtis Skolnick — CommonSpirit Health

MODERATOR

Jonathan Cogswell — Northwell Health

LOCATION IFHE Stage

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
NETWORKING
All Attendees
HCD Annual Networking Party (All Badges)

Evening networking party hosted by HCD, offering attendees a relaxed setting to connect and celebrate after the second day of the World Congress.

LOCATION To Be Announced

CONGRESS DAY 3

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

7:30 – 8:15 a.m.

NETWORKING
Attendees

Networking Breakfast (All Badges)

Morning networking breakfast on the final day of the World Congress, giving attendees time to connect before the closing sessions begin.

LOCATION Ballroom Lobby

8:15 – 8:45 a.m.

SESSION
Attendees

Equipment as Infrastructure: Bridging Capital Projects and Operations

How healthcare equipment planning, installation, and lifecycle support intersect with capital project delivery and ongoing facility operations. Speakers discuss how to bridge the gap between project teams and operations teams so equipment is treated as infrastructure — planned, commissioned, and maintained with the same discipline as the building itself.

SPEAKERS

Larry Alexander - Chief Growth Officer, KR Wolfe

Todd Rylands - Director of Healthcare Renovation, Construction, Installation, and Integration, KR Wolfe

MODERATOR

Mike Wood - Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, SPMT Group

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (CONT.)

8:45 – 9:15 a.m.

SESSION

Attendees

Rethinking the Healthcare Footprint: Distributed Care, Scaled Performance

Distributed care is often framed as the answer to access and capacity pressures, but design alone cannot fix what policy, payment, and infrastructure leave unresolved. This session looks at distributed care as part of a broader ecosystem shaped by payer mix, broadband and telehealth access, workforce realities, and rural economics. Speakers separate where the built environment can move the needle from where systemic reform must lead, so owners and designers can plan smaller, smarter facilities that scale performance without overpromising what architecture can solve.

SPEAKER

Katie L. Vander Putten, AIA, EDAC – MOA Architecture

MODERATOR

TBD

LOCATION IFHE Stage

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

SESSION

Attendees

The Modern Operating Room: Designing and Sustaining Dependable, Adaptable, and Compliant Surgical Environments

A look at how today's operating rooms are designed and sustained to remain dependable, adaptable, and compliant as surgical practice, technology, and regulatory expectations evolve. The session covers electrical safety, infrastructure resilience, and operational practices that keep surgical environments performing over their full life.

SPEAKERS

Benjamin Kazimier – Healthcare Business Unit Director, Bender Inc.

Additional Speakers – TBA

LOCATION IFHE Stage

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (CONT.)

9:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
EXPO
Attendees
Trade Show Open / Lunch Provided (All Badges)

Final day on the Expo Hall floor, with time for attendees to revisit exhibitors, follow up on conversations from earlier in the week, and finalize partner introductions before the close of the World Congress. Lunch is provided on the show floor.

LOCATION Expo Hall

9:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
IFHE EXCHANGE PAVILION
Attendees
IFHE Exchange Pavilion

Three 45-minute Exchange Pavilion sessions in the HCD Expo Hall on the final day of the World Congress, running alongside the trade show. Sponsors and topics to be confirmed.

LOCATION Expo Hall

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
SESSION
Attendees
IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Transforming Health Through Infrastructure: The Kigutu, Burundi Story

Details to come

SPEAKER

Deogratias Niyizonikiza – CEO, Village Health Works Hospital, Burundi

LOCATION Expo Hall

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (CONT.)**10:45 – 11:30 a.m.****SESSION***Attendees***IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Rethinking the Healthcare Built Environment: Technologies to Watch – Part I**

This fast-paced session will feature a series of brief technology talks highlighting emerging technologies that could influence the future of the healthcare built environment. Presenters will introduce the technology, explore potential healthcare applications, and offer practical perspectives on adoption and implementation. Getting More Performance from Existing Air Systems Healthcare facilities often have air handling systems with useful life remaining but struggle with humidity, capacity, energy use, and overall air distribution performance. ADAPT™ introduces a different approach. Much like variable frequency drives allowed pumps and fans to match actual demand rather than continually operating at full speed, ADAPT applies that thinking to humidity control. By treating humid outdoor air before it enters the existing air handling unit, facilities can improve humidity control, recover system capacity, reduce overcooling and reheating, lower energy use, and improve the overall performance of existing air systems.

SPEAKER

Gregg Harrington – Altaire Systems

LOCATION

IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**SESSION***Attendees***IFHE Exchange Pavilion: Rethinking the Healthcare Built Environment: Technologies to Watch – Part II**

This fast-paced session will feature a series of brief technology talks highlighting emerging technologies that could influence the future of the healthcare built environment. Presenters will introduce the technology, explore potential healthcare applications, and offer practical perspectives on adoption and implementation.

SPEAKER

Details to come

LOCATION

IFHE Exchange Pavilion in the HCD Expo Hall

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (CONT.)**1:15 – 1:45 p.m.****SESSION***Attendees*

Leveraging Integration & AI to Unlock Untapped Potential in Healthcare Facilities

How integration platforms and applied AI can unlock untapped value across healthcare facility portfolios — from energy and asset performance to maintenance, compliance, and resilience. Speakers share practical use cases that connect building data to clinical and operational outcomes.

SPEAKER

Schneider Electric

LOCATION

IFHE Stage

1:45 – 2:15 p.m.**SESSION***Attendees*

Read the Label: What's Really Inside Healthcare Finishes

A food label can tell a buyer a lot. Healthy ingredients often lead to better food and better choices. This session asks whether owners, designers, and facility leaders should look just as closely at the “ingredients” that go into healthcare finishes. The session will explore how material health, indoor air quality, aesthetics, durability, recycling, repurposing, energy use, and reduced manufacturing waste provide a more complete view of product value, helping create healthier environments while supporting long-term sustainability and performance.

SPEAKERS

Linnea Rehnke - Manager Capital Projects, Advocate Health

Benjamin Wojcikiewicz, AKBD, ASID Affiliate – Senior Director of Sustainability | Sales and Client Engagement, Mohawk Industries

Karen Freeman – Principal, Firmwide Director of Healthcare, Children's Health Practice Leader, HOK

LOCATION

IFHE Stage

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (CONT.)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**AWARDS & CLOSING***Attendees***International Building Awards (45 min) & Closing Events
(15 mins)**

International Building Awards ceremony (approximately 45 minutes) followed by formal Closing Events (approximately 15 minutes), recognizing outstanding healthcare facility projects and bringing the 2026 IFHE World Congress to a close.

SPEAKERS

Switzerland — to promote IFHE 2027

Fábio Bitencourt — to promote Brazil IFHE 2028

LOCATION IFHE Stage



PRESENTER BIOS

Presenter Bios

Alphabetical by last name. Session references below each entry link back to the program.

The 2026 IFHE World Congress brings together a global community of healthcare facility leaders, designers, engineers, clinicians, and industry experts.



Mohammad Alai, AIA, ACHA

Director of Design

[Office of Design and Construction, AdventHealth](#)

With more than 40 years of experience in healthcare planning, design, and project management, Mohammad Alai provides leadership in the development of design standards, project management guidelines, contract strategies, and systemwide approaches to medical and master planning. He has led the planning and delivery of numerous healthcare projects, including AdventHealth's 14-story West Tower, the 12-story AdventHealth for Women Tower, the 14-story Ginsburg Tower, a Patient Tower at AdventHealth Celebration, and the eight-story Executive Tower on the AdventHealth Orlando campus.

SPEAKING IN

"Flexibility, Standardization, and the Cost of Customization"



Larry Alexander

Chief Growth Officer

[KR Wolfe](#)

With over 20 years of experience driving strategic growth, Larry has led high-performing teams across a wide range of organizations, including Fortune 10 companies, private equity-backed firms, and privately held businesses. His leadership on company boards and within executive teams has consistently delivered record-setting results.

SPEAKING IN

"Equipment as Infrastructure: Bridging Capital Projects and Operations"



Judah Auld

Vice President, Preconstruction

[McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.](#)

Judah Auld is Vice President of Preconstruction at McCarthy Building Companies, where he brings more than 26 years of construction industry experience, including 19 years with McCarthy. A recognized leader in healthcare construction, Judah has spent much of his career supporting complex projects for some of Texas's premier healthcare providers, including MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Children's Hospital, and CHRISTUS Spohn Health System. Most recently, Judah served as Preconstruction Executive for the New Pediatric Campus, leading the McCarthy Vaughn Partnership's preconstruction efforts through a highly collaborative and integrated design process. His expertise in planning, estimating, and stakeholder alignment has helped deliver innovative healthcare environments that support both patient care and operational excellence.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

(Moderator) "Building for What's Next: Future-Ready Healthcare Campuses by Design"



Charles Aunger

Group Chief Information Officer

[American Hospital Dubai](#)

Charles Aunger is Group Chief Information Officer at American Hospital Dubai, leading the organization's transformation into a secure, AI-enabled, future-ready healthcare system. A globally experienced healthcare technologist with over 30 years of leadership across the USA, UK, and Middle East, he is known for turning complexity into clarity and strategy into execution.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"\$2 Trillion Invested: Why Is the Average Operating Margin Between 1-3%?"



Nick Barber, MBA, PMP

Vice President, Executive Project Manager

[Children's Health](#)

Details to come

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Mega-Project Campus Development: Equipment Planning from Operations to Project Management"



Fábio Bitencourt

Architecture Professor

[Architect](#)

Fábio Bitencourt is an architecture professor and researcher in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He holds a Doctorate in Architecture and Master's Degree in Healthcare Comfort in Architecture. He is the author of numerous publications on hospital architecture, human comfort, healthcare environments and ergonomics. Fábio has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Healthcare Engineering (IFHE) since 2014.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Two Hemispheres, One Patient: A Global Conversation on the Future of Healthcare Design"

"Latin America: Healing Spaces, Use of Place, and Palliative Care Architecture"

"International Building Awards & Closing Events"



Brett Bramlett, MHA, CHPA, CHSP

Safety, Security, & Parking Director

[HH Health System](#)

Brett Bramlett is a healthcare security executive with more than 25 years of executive leadership experience. He serves as Director of Safety & Security for HH Health System, where he leads comprehensive safety, security, and workplace violence prevention programs. Under his leadership, the department earned the 2025 IAHS Lindberg Bell Award for Program Excellence, one of the profession's highest honors.

Brett holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Athens State University and a Master of Healthcare Administration from Louisiana State University Shreveport. He is a Certified Healthcare Protection Administrator (CHPA), Certified Healthcare Safety Professional (CHSP), and holds specialized certifications in Workplace Violence Prevention, Executive Protection, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Brett is a Past Alabama IAHS Chair and currently serves as an IAHS Board Member-at-Large, where he is committed to advancing excellence in healthcare security.

SPEAKING IN

"Healthcare Security: A Vital Design Issue"



Marc Budaus, AIA, ACHA, EDAC, LEED AP

Partner, Health Studio Practice Leader

[HKS, Inc.](#)

Marc designs health facilities as if they were for his own family and friends. He understands the strong impact healthcare design has on people's lives, from the elation of a newborn baby to the heartbreak of saying goodbye to a loved one. He believes in being on the forefront of design, assisting clients to improve facility operations while focusing on total patient care, safety and well-being. Marc's many award-winning health facility designs have helped propel HKS to be a leader in the industry.

SPEAKING IN

"From Strategy to Performance: Executive Strategies for Operational Readiness"



Jonathan Cogswell

Vice President, Manhattan Development, Design & Construction

[Northwell Health Facilities Services](#)

Jonathan B. Cogswell is Vice President of Design & Construction at Northwell Health, where he oversees the planning and delivery of large-scale capital projects across the system. With more than 30 years of experience in healthcare facility operations and development, he has led the execution of complex planning and delivery initiatives including ambulatory care centers, hospital expansions, and full replacement hospital projects.

Jonathan began his career developing cancer centers throughout the New York metropolitan area before transitioning into hospital development leadership roles. He has spent the last 16 years at Northwell Health, where he played a key role in advancing major capital projects.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Jonathan serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors for the Greater New York Chapter of the Association of Medical Facility Professionals and is Co-Chair of the Healthcare & Life Sciences Committee of the New York Building Congress.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

(Moderator) “The Infrastructure of Trust: Engineering the ‘Big Blue Chair’ Protocol”



Melinda deHoll, MSN, FACHE, AIGP

Harvard Senior Executive Fellow, author “Leading AI Adoption in Healthcare: AI Does Not Adopt Itself”

Melinda deHoll, MSN, FACHE, AIGP is a Harvard Senior Executive Fellow and author of “Leading AI Adoption in Healthcare: AI Does Not Adopt Itself.” Co-designed an enterprise-scale clinical AI prototype through the Veterans Health Administration's competitive innovation pipeline in collaboration with Microsoft via the VHA Venture Studio. Currently advises boards and C-suite leaders on AI governance and adoption across healthcare, venture capital, and academia.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“\$2 Trillion Invested: Why Is the Average Operating Margin Between 1-3%?”



John Demming

Market Director

[Security Operations, AdventHealth · VP, IAHS](#)

John Demming, CPP, CHPA, is the Director of Safety & Security at Lakeland Regional Health, the 5th largest hospital in Florida and home to the 2nd busiest emergency department in the nation. He has over a decade of experience in the healthcare security and emergency management field. John earned a Master of Arts degree in Public Management from The Johns Hopkins University. His undergraduate studies were in Public Safety and Security at Florida State University. Demming currently serves as the Vice President/Secretary on the Board of Directors for the International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety. He has authored published works featured in The Journal of Healthcare Protection Management and the American Nurse Journal. He holds the credentials of Certified Protection Professional by ASIS International and Certified Healthcare Protection Administrator by the IAHS.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

[“Healthcare Security: A Vital Design Issue”](#)



PHOTO
Michele Di Marco

Michele Di Marco

WHO Téchne Coordinator

[World Health Organization \(Geneva\)](#)

Details to come

[SPEAKING IN](#)

[“2026 IFHE World Congress Opening Ceremony”](#)

PHOTO
David Evans

David Evans

Schneider Electric

Bio: [add presenter bio here – 2 to 3 sentences]

SPEAKING IN

“From Reactive to Ready: How Digital Healthcare Infrastructure Supports Uptime and Business Continuity”



Robert (Bob) Feldbauer, FACHE

Chief Program Delivery Officer

Children's Health

Robert (Bob) Feldbauer, FACHE, is the Chief Program Delivery Officer for Children's Health. In this role, Bob serves as Children's Health's senior executive responsible for the New Pediatric Campus, a \$5 billion transformational joint venture between Children's Health and UT Southwestern Medical Center. Bob has broad leadership responsibility over all project aspects, including budget and schedule management, construction, owner's procurement, technology and equipment planning and procurement, operational planning, and activation and transition planning. Additionally, Bob manages master planning and real estate across the system. Bob also serves as 2026 President of the Association of Medical Facility Professionals (AMFP).

SPEAKING IN

“One Vision, Many Perspectives: Leading Complex Teams Toward Collective Success”



Christine Flaherty, FCMAA

Senior Vice President, Real Estate Development & Facilities

[Catholic Health](#)

Details to come

SPEAKING IN

"Healthcare at the Crossroads: Capital Pressure and the Future of Facility Investment"



Carl Fleming

Healthcare Strategist

[DPR Construction](#)

Carl Fleming is a leading voice in healthcare's digital transformation, serving as Phygital Healthcare Strategist at DPR Construction. With 25 years of experience at the intersection of healthcare, technology, and construction, he guides health systems through designing and delivering AI-enabled, technology-ready facilities. His work bridges technology strategy, clinical workflow optimization, and capital construction to create connected, patient-centered environments. A frequent industry contributor, he writes on the phygital future of care, techquity, and omnichannel experiences, and is a recurring guest on the podcast Constructing with Care.

SPEAKING IN

"AI and the Future of the Built Environment: Strategy, Transformation, and What Comes Next"

**Susan Fowler**

Director, Program Management

[Children's Health](#)*Details to come***SPEAKING IN**

"Mega-Project Campus Development: Equipment Planning from Operations to Project Management"

**Greg Francis***Details to come***SPEAKING IN**

(Moderator) "One Vision, Many Perspectives: Leading Complex Teams Toward Collective Success"



Karen S. Freeman, AIA, ACHA, NCIDQ, EDAC, LEED AP BD+C

Principal, Firmwide Director of Healthcare, Children's Health Practice Leader

HOK

Karen is an HOK principal and the Director of Healthcare and firmwide Children's Health Practice Leader. With more than 25 years of planning and design experience, she balances the needs of occupants and clients with the project's broader goals for successful outcomes. Karen holds a Six Sigma Lean Black Belt in Healthcare (LBBH) and is one of fewer than 450 board-certified healthcare architects in the U.S. per the American College of Healthcare Architects (ACHA). She serves on the Board of Women in Healthcare, a non-profit organization with over 3,500 members nationally, which empowers and supports the mentorship and growth of women in healthcare leadership.

SPEAKING IN

"Read the Label: What's Really Inside Healthcare Finishes"



Gunnar Hansen

Business Development Manager for Healthcare

Omega 365

Gunnar Hansen is Business Development Manager for Healthcare at Omega 365 and a biomedical engineer with more than 20 years of experience in healthcare technology and digitalization. He has worked extensively with hospitals in Norway and internationally on the use of digital twins, IoT, BIM, and real-time data to improve how healthcare facilities are planned, delivered, and operated. Before joining Omega 365, Gunnar led smart hospital initiatives at Haltian, working with hospitals to apply sensor technology and digital twins to challenges such as space utilization, asset tracking, and operational efficiency.

SPEAKING IN

"Data-Driven Decision-Making Across the Hospital Asset Lifecycle: How to Do More with Less"



Yoshihisa Hirayama, AIA, ACHA

CEO

[PSCompany Ltd.](#)

Yoshihisa Hirayama is Chief Executive Officer of PS Company Ltd, a Japanese manufacturer of HVAC systems. An active board member of the Healthcare Engineering Association of Japan since 2013, he has contributed to national HVAC design guidelines for healthcare facilities and has chaired its International Committee. Yoshi has represented Japan at the International Federation of Healthcare Engineering for over a decade and serves on multiple professional and technical committees. He holds a PhD in energy and the built environment, and lectures regularly at Japanese universities on healthy indoor environments and energy efficient buildings.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

(Moderator) "Healthcare Facilities for the Future: Lessons from Japan"



Rick Hood, CLSSGB

President/CEO

[IMH Healthcare](#)

Rick is an Executive Healthcare professional with domestic and international healthcare experience leading highly engaged teams, delivering exceptional patient experiences, and successful project execution. Rick has led diverse, multinational teams from across the globe in Abu Dhabi and geographically dispersed Support Service teams across 17 hospitals for IU Health. Rick has led the operational planning and activation of healthcare facilities ranging from large medical office buildings to the four million square foot Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi project. During his leadership tenure at CCAD, his teams were recognized with multiple awards, including the top-rated department for patient satisfaction scores as measured by Press Ganey International for two consecutive years.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"From Strategy to Performance: Executive Strategies for Operational Readiness"



Benjamin Kazimier

Healthcare Business Unit Director

Bender

R. Benjamin Kazimier is the Healthcare Business Unit Director at Bender Incorporated, with expertise in power system design, installation, and commissioning across industrial and healthcare sectors. He has held leadership roles at Beckwith Electric, Basler Electric, and GE Industrial Solutions. An active IEEE and ASHE member, he serves on multiple IEEE committees and chairs the PSRC B11 Working Group. He holds a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering Technology from Purdue University.

SPEAKING IN

"The Modern Operating Room: Designing and Sustaining Dependable, Adaptable, and Compliant Surgical Environments"



Melissa Keifer

Suffolk Construction

Melissa Kiefer is Vice President of Strategy at Suffolk Construction, where she focuses on scaling the operational ecosystem that enables operational excellence, talent development, client trust, and strategic growth to reinforce one another across the healthcare and life sciences sector. Her work helps teams frame challenges and solutions in ways that accelerate alignment and support decision-making from an owner-informed lens.

Prior to joining Suffolk, Melissa spent eight years at Hospital for Special Surgery, where she established and led the organization's first in-house Planning, Design, and Construction team and helped drive complex healthcare capital initiatives across New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Florida.

Her experience spans urban healthcare development, regulatory strategy, governance, and organizational alignment across operationally sensitive environments. Melissa serves on the Advisory Board of the Greater New York Chapter of the Association of Medical Facility Professionals and is passionate about strengthening collaboration, mentorship, and long-term trust across healthcare project teams.

SPEAKING IN

"The Infrastructure of Trust: Engineering the 'Big Blue Chair' Protocol"



Joshua King, CHFM

Vice President of Facilities Planning and Development

[Appalachian Regional Healthcare](#)

Josh King serves as the Vice President of Facilities Planning & Development for Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH), a 14-hospital healthcare system serving communities across Kentucky and West Virginia. He leads systemwide capital planning, facilities operations, construction, and real estate strategy—driving modernization, infrastructure resilience, and long-term portfolio optimization. Previously, Josh served as Regional Director of Facilities Services for Kaiser Permanente in the Mid-Atlantic states, overseeing multi-site facilities operations across a large integrated delivery network. He is recognized for translating complex technical challenges into strategic, system level solutions.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“Flexibility, Standardization, and the Cost of Customization”



Rachel Knox, AIA, ACHA, EDAC, LSSGB, LEED AP

Studio Practice Leader, Health; Partner

[HKS, Inc.](#)

Rachel Knox has dedicated her 20+ year career to the design of healthcare facilities. Her diverse project portfolio focuses on pediatric projects and lean delivery, and includes comprehensive master plans, greenfield replacement facilities, major expansions, and thoughtful renovations. She believes that excellent design solutions bring to life the unique, innovative ideas brought forth by patients, families, and staff.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“Building for What's Next: Future-Ready Healthcare Campuses by Design”



Ruka Kosuge, Ph.D.

Professor, School of Architecture
[Shibaura Institute of Technology](#)

Dr. Ruka Kosuge is a Professor in the School of Architecture at Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan, and a First-Class Registered Architect. She holds a Ph.D. in Architecture from the University of Tokyo and has conducted research at Clemson University, Texas A&M University, and the National Institute of Public Health. Her research focuses on healthcare architecture, architectural planning, healing environments, and universal design, with particular expertise in spatial traffic analysis in medical facilities. She actively contributes to advancing facility management and occupant-centered design through her work with the Architectural Institute of Japan and the Japan Institute of Healthcare Architecture.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“Healthcare Facilities for the Future: Lessons from Japan”



Daniel Kromis

COO & Managing Director
[HSG, Inc.](#)

Details to come

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“Mega-Project Campus Development: Equipment Planning from Operations to Project Management”



Jess Langerud, MSN, CPM

Principal Program Manager

[UCI Health](#)

Jess Langerud, MSN, CPM, is a Principal Program Manager at UCI Health, leading growth and transformation initiatives across multiple projects, including the Irvine Medical Campus. Representing approximately 1.2 million square feet of healthcare facilities, the campus was developed through a \$1.3 billion investment to expand UCI Health's clinical capacity, research capabilities, and outpatient services across Orange County, California. It was also the first major healthcare transformation project completed within the University of California system and the nation's first all-electric acute care hospital.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“\$2 Trillion Invested: Why Is the Average Operating Margin Between 1-3%?”



Stephanie Litchkowski

Northeast Business Development Manager – Specifications

[Zurn Elkay](#)

Stephanie Litchkowski is an award-winning sales professional with 25+ years of experience in the building products industry and a firm believer that great business is built on even better relationships. As Northeast Business Development Manager of Specifications at Zurn Elkay, Stephanie focuses on growing market share through strategic sales efforts, strong partnerships, and, when necessary, a healthy amount of persistence. She works closely with customers and rep agencies throughout the Northeast to turn opportunities into results. Stephanie also serves as Director of Sponsorship for the AMFP GNY Chapter.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“Balancing Sustainability Goals with Water Safety in Hospitals”



Kyle Majchrowski

Founder

NexIntent • Author, Powerful Conversations

Kyle Majchrowski delivers human-centric leadership and development, known for his ability to inspire and empower. With 25+ years building design & construction capital project delivery teams as an Owner, Kyle emphasizes the importance of people. He is dedicated to fostering high-performing teams and unlocking the potential of individuals. Kyle's approach is grounded in relatability to create connections and encourage open conversation. In addition to NexIntent, Kyle leads Ripple Intent, a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of individuals and communities. He drives effective leadership through intention, self-awareness, continuous growth, and making a positive impact on others.

SPEAKING IN

"Powerful Conversations: Connection Drives Performance"



Michael Malone

Vice President, Operations, Project Executive

Vaughn Construction

Michael Malone is the McCarthy Vaughn Partnership Project Executive and Vice President of Operations at Vaughn Construction, a leading institutional contractor in Texas. With over 30 years of industry experience (29 years of dedicated service at Vaughn), Michael has held numerous positions within the organization prior to being appointed Vice President. Michael's passion for the built environment and his unwavering dedication to promoting a collaborative and supportive work environment have made him a respected figure in the industry. Under his guidance, Vaughn Construction continues to thrive, delivering high-quality, technically challenging projects in the healthcare market space and maintaining a reputation for excellence.

SPEAKING IN

"Building for What's Next: Future-Ready Healthcare Campuses by Design"



Clayton Mitchell, PE, CEM

Senior Vice President, Corporate Facilities and Real Estate

[Yale New Haven Health](#)

Details to come

SPEAKING IN

"Healthcare at the Crossroads: Capital Pressure and the Future of Facility Investment"



Luciano Monza

Architect, Partner

[ArquiSalud](#)

Luciano Monza is a partner with ArquiSalud, an architecture studio specializing in the planning, design, and construction management of health buildings. He holds more than 30 years of experience in the planning, design, and management of healthcare facilities in both the public and private sectors. He has held executive roles in the Argentine Association of Hospital Architecture and Engineering (AADAIH) and served as the Argentine representative on the IFHE Council since 2012.

SPEAKING IN

"Latin America: Healing Spaces, Use of Place, and Palliative Care Architecture"



Renee Mueller

VP Dallas

[HSG, Inc.](#)

Details to come

SPEAKING IN

"Mega-Project Campus Development: Equipment Planning from Operations to Project Management"



Lynn Murphy

Associate Vice President UK HealthCare Facilities Planning

[University of Kentucky Healthcare](#)

Lynn Murphy has served as AVP of Facilities Planning for the University of Kentucky HealthCare (UK HealthCare) since 2021. In this role she oversees facilities strategic planning, execution of the University's healthcare projects and the healthcare facilities infrastructure projects that support the UK HealthCare system both on and off the main campus. In 2023, a significant number of projects were approved to support expansion and the updating of current facilities totaling \$5 billion of work over the next 8-10 years.

Prior to moving to Lexington, Lynn was the Director of Planning and Construction for Northwestern Medicine (NM), a healthcare system comprising 12 hospitals and over 200 locations in the Chicagoland area. Lynn has more than 25 years' experience managing high performing teams for these two healthcare organizations.

SPEAKING IN

"Flexibility, Standardization, and the Cost of Customization"



Ana Paula Naffah Perez

Commercial Director

C+A Architecture and Interiors

An architect who graduated from Mackenzie University in 1993, Ana Paula has over 30 years of experience in the field of hospital architecture. Since 2005, she has been a partner and Commercial Director at C+A Arquitetura para Saúde, with a portfolio comprising over 300 medical facility projects and more than 120 hospitals in Brazil and abroad. She previously worked at Leitner Arquitetura and Bross Consultoria, where she coordinated projects for major hospitals. From 2022 through 2024, she served as President of the Brazilian Association for the Development of Hospital Buildings (ABDEH).

SPEAKING IN

“Latin America: Healing Spaces, Use of Place, and Palliative Care Architecture”



Bill Navejar

President

International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS) Foundation

As a member of the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS), Bill Navejar has been involved with and championed all chapters on a global level for more than twenty years. He has twice been awarded the IAHSS Elwood G. Near Presidential Award for outstanding contributions, dedication and contributions to the association and the field of healthcare security and safety. He is the namesake recipient of the IAHSS “Bill Navejar Lifetime Achievement Award”. Currently, he serves as president of the IAHSS Foundation and Chair of the IAHSS International Committee.

SPEAKING IN

“Healthcare Security: A Vital Design Issue”



Shiro Nitnai

Architect, Professor

& Outside Director of ITOKI Corporation

Shiro Nitnai is a director and fellow of Japan Facility Management Association (JFMA), visiting professor at the University of Tsukuba and Toyo University, and an outside director of ITOKI Corporation. He has written for publications including the Hitotsubashi Business Review and has given presentations at conferences including Japan FM Conference (2008-2025), Korean FM Conference (2023), and World Workplace (WWP) (2003).

SPEAKING IN

“Healthcare Facilities for the Future: Lessons from Japan”



Deogratias Niyizonikiza

CEO

Village Health Works Hospital

In 2005, in one of the poorest rural villages of Burundi, Deo Niyizonikiza established Village Health Works, with the goal of removing barriers to human dignity and progress through access to compassionate quality health care and education based on critical thinking in a dignified environment. Thanks to the local community's participation, a small amount of seed money, and Deo's leadership, “the little clinic that could” opened a year later and has grown to become a state-of-the-art teaching regional hospital known as the Kigutu Hospital and Women's Health Pavilion. Deo's success and passion in creating a holistic community-driven organization model has made Village Health Works one-of-a-kind amongst the world's NGOs.

A sought-after speaker and lecturer on inspiring approaches to confronting global health inequities, Deo is the recipient of multiple prestigious awards and honors. His life journey is told in Pulitzer Prize-winner Tracy Kidder's book, *Strength in What Remains*.

SPEAKING IN

“Transforming Health Through Infrastructure: The Kigutu, Burundi Story”



A. Ray Pentecost III, DrPH, FAIA, FACHA, LEED AP

Director, Center for Health Systems & Design

[Texas A&M University; holder of the George J. Mann Chair of Healthcare Design](#)

Dr. Ray Pentecost is Director of the Center for Health Systems & Design at Texas A&M University, and holder of the George J. Mann Chair of Healthcare Design. Ray is a Fellow in both the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American College of Healthcare Architects (ACHA), a former Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, a LEED Accredited Professional, and an ordained minister. Ray is President of the International Academy for Design & Health and Past Co-Director for the UIA - Public Health Work Programme. He is a former President of both the AIA-Academy of Architecture for Health and the ACHA.

SPEAKING IN

“Two Hemispheres, One Patient: A Global Conversation on the Future of Healthcare Design”



Anahita Razavi

Healthcare Construction Executive, Architect, and Speaker

Anahita Razavi is a healthcare construction executive, architect, and speaker with 20+ years of experience directing capital programs across academic health systems, federal facilities, and institutional environments. Most recently Director of Real Estate, Design, Construction and Signage at Inova Health System, she has led ambulatory and healthplex portfolios and developed systemwide design standards since pioneering integrated ambulatory care facilities in 2009. She speaks on healthcare design, patient experience, the ROI of human-centered built environments, and the thoughtful integration of artificial intelligence with existing healthcare facility platforms and operations. Her core philosophy is that the best buildings emerge when institutional culture, human experience, and technical expertise are integrated from the very first conversation. She holds a Master of Interior Architecture from the University of Antwerp, is a member of ASHE, and serves as Vice President of the AMFP National Advisory Board in DMV.

SPEAKING IN

(Moderator) “Flexibility, Standardization, and the Cost of Customization”



Linnea Rehnke, MBA, EDAC, RID, NCIDQ, CHID

Manager Capital Projects

[Advocate Health](#)

Linnea Rehnke, MBA, EDAC, RID, NCIDQ, CHID, serves as Manager of Capital Projects at Advocate Health, supporting a system of 42 hospitals and more than 1,000 sites of care. In this role, she integrates the organization's sustainability, modular construction, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion objectives into the complex demands of healthcare environments. Linnea's work centers on the built environment—its materials, performance, and impact on patients, staff, and communities. She collaborates closely with their architecture and design partners to ensure individual projects align with Advocate Health's systemwide goals, while also engaging with the manufacturing community to advance more sustainable solutions for the healthcare market.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Read the Label: What's Really Inside Healthcare Finishes"



Jen Rodosta, FACHE

Executive Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

[Children's Health](#)

Jen Rodosta, FACHE, is a senior healthcare executive with extensive experience in strategic implementation, capital development, and organizational transformation. She currently serves as Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Children's Health and is a leader in developing a \$5 billion campus in collaboration with UT Southwestern Medical Center, one of the largest pediatric infrastructure investments in the country. With 20+ years in healthcare experience across acute, academic, and ambulatory care settings, Jen has led complex initiatives that integrate operational strategy, facility development and patient experience.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Building for What's Next: Future-Ready Healthcare Campuses by Design"



Todd Rylands, FL - CBC 126887

Director of Healthcare Renovation

[Construction, Installation, and Integration, KR Wolfe](#)

With more than three decades of experience, Todd brings deep expertise in construction theory, operations, and management. He has led a multi-state construction company specializing in commercial, industrial, and residential projects, and has directed large, complex portfolios across multiple markets. Todd is passionate about fostering organizational excellence through decisive strategy, strong accountability, and human-centered leadership.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Equipment as Infrastructure: Bridging Capital Projects and Operations"



Curtis Skolnick, MHA

System Director, Real Estate Strategy-Portfolio Healthcare Planning

[CommonSpirit Health](#)

Curtis works within Real Estate Strategy for CommonSpirit and leads a team of healthcare strategists and planners in an internal consulting role. He collaborates with Regional and Market leadership to ensure that any capital project and the resulting disposition of their physical care-based assets have a well thought-out market and data-driven basis for planning. He works with the entire National Real Estate Services (NRES) strategy platform and NRES partners, primarily in Planning, Design and Construction (PDC), as well as other subject matter experts across the system, to ensure that need-based sustainable solutions are developed and used to underwrite business plans for Strategy Review and the capital approval process to move to implementation.

He works to optimize the current portfolio as well as seek opportunities for portfolio and business growth to meet the strategic goals of the markets and the communities served. He provides a wide array of services to facilitate, support, and lead projects that allow Markets and Regions to make informed strategic and financially stable decisions.

His market planning work leads primarily to implementable strategic and master facilities plans for acute and ambulatory care assets. He fosters creative yet pragmatic solutioning and decision making while continually striving to improve and innovate in the way he approaches his work.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"The Infrastructure of Trust: Engineering the 'Big Blue Chair' Protocol"

**David Tibi**

CEO

TOCCorp, AI-Driven Healthcare Capital Project and Care Delivery platforms

David Tibi is the creator of Capital Project Diaries and CEO at TOCCorp, AI-Driven Healthcare Capital Project and Care Delivery platforms.

SPEAKING IN

“\$2 Trillion Invested: Why Is the Average Operating Margin Between 1-3%?”



Rahul Tikekar

Principal and Senior Vice President

[Loring Consulting Engineers, Inc.](#)

Rahul Tikekar is a recognized expert in the field of healthcare engineering, with over two decades of experience in world-class hospital and medical facilities design. He joined Loring in 2015 to build the firm's dedicated healthcare practice, now one of its most significant centers for project volume, growth, and revenue. Rahul now leads corporate wide healthcare for Loring. Under Rahul's direction, the Healthcare Group has had the opportunity to work for such acclaimed institutions as Mount Sinai Health System, NYU Langone, Montefiore Medical Center, Northwell Health, and NewYork-Presbyterian, and is looking to replicate its success and expand its geographic footprint nationwide.

From procurement to construction, Rahul is responsible for a large and diverse portfolio of critical infrastructure upgrades, new construction, and fit-outs for, among others: ambulatory care and surgical facilities, diagnostic imaging, critical care centers, cancer centers, children's hospitals, nursing homes, research laboratories, clean room pharmacies, dental schools, and behavioral health centers. He maintains high-level quality control on all projects to ensure the engineering designs meet client needs and industry standards, and plays a central role in supporting client relationships, developing new business opportunities, and mentoring young staff. Rahul holds an MBA from Baruch College, a Master of Science in mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from YC College of Engineering in his native India. He is licensed to practice engineering in multiple states and is a member of the Association of Medical Facility Professionals (AMFP – Multiple Chapters), Healthcare Engineering Society of New York (HESGNY), the American Society of Healthcare Engineering (ASHE), the Healthcare Facilities Management Society of NJ, and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). In addition, Rahul sits on the Healthcare Committee of NYC Builds Bio and is a member and past award recipient of the Maharashtra Foundation, a charitable organization that helps the underprivileged in rural India.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

“Healthcare at the Crossroads: Capital Pressure and the Future of Facility Investment”



Katie L. Vander Putten, AIA, EDAC

President and Director of Healthcare

[MOA Architecture](#)

Katie L. Vander Putten, AIA, EDAC, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, is the President and Director of Healthcare at MOA Architecture, a boutique design firm dedicated to creating places where people can thrive. Katie joined MOA to help build and lead its healthcare practice, bringing a career-long focus on healthcare planning and design.

She specializes in complex healthcare environments, including ambulatory surgery centers, behavioral health facilities, medical office buildings, and clinics. Katie is known for her ability to navigate operational, regulatory, and clinical challenges—translating them into thoughtful, efficient environments that improve patient outcomes and support care teams. She is particularly passionate about advancing access to care in rural communities, where thoughtful design can have an outsized impact.

In addition to her role at MOA, Katie currently serves as President of CAHED, the Colorado chapter of ASHE, where she is actively engaged in advancing healthcare facility leadership and collaboration across the state.

Katie became an architect for the balance of creativity and problem-solving, but remains inspired by the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives through healthcare design. Outside of work, she is a mom and outdoor enthusiast who values building a full and balanced life.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Rethinking the Healthcare Footprint: Distributed Care, Scaled Performance"



Doris Vilas-Boas

Researcher, CEO, President of the Brazilian Association for the Development of Hospital Buildings (ABDEH)

Conexão Projetos

Doris Vilas-Boas is an architect specializing in healthcare and wellness environments. She serves as a professor and researcher with the Federal University of Bahia's Hospital Architecture and Engineering Study Group, where she conducts research focused on sustainability and innovation in healthcare spaces. As a consultant for PAHO/WHO to the Ministry of Health, Doris has provided expertise on public health studies and workforce sizing within the Unified Health System. She is also a founding partner of Conexão: Arquitetura para o Bem-Estar (Connection: Architecture for Well-being), where she leads projects involving Health Care Network planning, infrastructure sizing, and the development of hospitals, clinics, and laboratories. Currently, Doris serves as President of the Brazilian Association for the Development of Hospital Buildings (ABDEH), where she will continue her mission to promote the development of and innovation in healthcare environments in Brazil.

SPEAKING IN

"Latin America: Healing Spaces, Use of Place, and Palliative Care Architecture"



Francisco Villagas, CPO, CSSM, CPP

Director of Security

[Christus Muguerza Hospital](#)

Francisco Javier Villegas Barbosa is an Industrial Engineer with a specialization in Industrial Safety from Universidad Internacional. He currently serves as Corporate Security Director for the hospital system Christus Muguerza, where he leads the areas of Security, Protection, and Environmental Management. Since 2018, he has been responsible for the comprehensive security strategy across more than 15 hospitals, clinics, administrative offices, and expansion projects located in eight states throughout Mexico.

Throughout his professional career, he has strengthened his expertise through several executive programs and specialized diplomas in corporate security and risk management. These include the Corporate Security Diploma from Universidad Pontificia de Madrid -- DSE, the Risk Management Diploma from Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, the Incident Command System Diploma from Centro de Estudios Navales -- SCI, and the Senior Executive Development Program in Corporate Security from Universidad de la Americas Puebla -- DSC. In addition, he holds international certifications from the International Foundation for Protection Officers as CPO and CSSM, as well as the CPP certification from ASIS International. He is also a certified A.L.I.V.E. Active Shooter Instructor and an ISO 22301 and ISO 28000 Auditor.

His leadership and commitment to advancing corporate security have led him to hold key positions within major industry organizations and associations. He served as President of ASIS International Chapter 239 Mexico and currently serves as Chairman of the Security Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico. In addition, he coordinates the Security and Protection Committee of the Monterrey Health City Cluster since 2021 and serves as Administrative Coordinator for the Corporate Security Days in Nuevo León, promoting initiatives focused on professional development and strategic collaboration in the field of security.

SPEAKING IN

"Healthcare Security: A Vital Design Issue"



Sam Werschky, P.E.

Assistant Vice President Planning, Design & Construction

[Cook Children's Health Care System](#)

As Assistant Vice President Planning, Design & Construction, Sam Werschky is responsible for the development and administration of Cook Children's Health Care System strategies in planning, design, and construction. He retired from the United States Navy in 2017 after a 21-year career as a Civil Engineer. While in the Navy he led diverse and complex engineering organizations around the globe providing construction and facilities management; capital planning; real estate and environmental services. After his retirement in 2017 and prior to joining the Cook Children's team he was the Assistant Director, Transportation and Public Works for the City of Fort Worth and Senior Project Manager with Broaddus & Associate. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering and his Masters of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas.

SPEAKING IN

"From Strategy to Performance: Executive Strategies for Operational Readiness"



Benjamin Wojcikiewicz, AKBD, ASID Affiliate

Senior Director of Sustainability | Sales and Client Engagement

[Mohawk Industries](#)

Ben Wojcikiewicz, AKBD, ASID Affiliate, is Sr. Director of Sustainability | Sales and Client Engagement at Mohawk Industries. With 24 years in building products, he brings a people-centered perspective to sustainable innovation in the built environment. Ben has worked across glass, stone, cabinetry, tools, appliances, and commercial interiors with brands including AGC Glass, Indiana Limestone, Polycor, MasterBrand Cabinets, Festool, Whirlpool, and Mohawk. His work focuses on uncovering customer insights, translating design thinking into commercial opportunity, and advancing healthier, more sustainable materials. He supports the International Living Future Institute, Design for Freedom, and ASID Georgia.

SPEAKING IN

"Read the Label: What's Really Inside Healthcare Finishes"



Mike Wood

Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

[SPMT Group](#)

Michael (Mike) Wood is a seasoned healthcare executive with over 40 years of experience leading complex facilities, capital and operational programs across Europe, North America, and South America. He specializes in building and guiding high-performance teams, driving process improvements, and fostering collaboration to achieve exceptional results in the healthcare sector.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

(Moderator) "Equipment as Infrastructure: Bridging Capital Projects and Operations"



Melanie Wright, CFDAI, CSI

Regional Business Development Manager

[HID Global](#)

Bio: [add presenter bio here — 2 to 3 sentences]

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Healthcare Security: A Vital Design Issue"



Barry Zuckerman, CHC, DBIA, LEED GA

Vice President, Design and Construction, Corporate Facilities Services

[Northwell Health](#)

Barry Zuckerman, VP of Capital Projects at Northwell Health, boasts over two decades of healthcare leadership. With a robust engineering background and project management expertise, he excels in innovatively positioning Northwell Health for success in today's dynamic healthcare market. Barry's seasoned career includes assisting the transition of organization from a local system to a distinguished regional and national healthcare leader. Overseeing diverse inpatient and outpatient projects, both large and small-scale, his collaborative leadership style emphasizes facility development and consensus-building. Barry remains dedicated to Northwell's continued growth and excellence in the healthcare industry.

[SPEAKING IN](#)

"Healthcare at the Crossroads: Capital Pressure and the Future of Facility Investment"

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