



Dr. Helen Burstin Named As New Coalition for Trust in Health & Science Board Member

January 22, 2024 - Washington, D.C. - The Coalition for Trust in Health & Science (CTHS) today announced the appointment of Dr. Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP, to its board of directors. Burstin is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), a coalition of more than 50 specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians. As a long-time health advocate, thought leader, and dedicated practitioner, Burstin's voice is a critical one as we continue to bring together leading organizations across the health ecosystem to advance trustworthiness in health, medical care relationships, and factual, science-backed decision-making.

CMSS advances the expertise and collective voice of medical specialty societies in support of physicians and the patients they serve. Representing specialties from primary care to surgery, CMSS addresses critical issues across specialties through shared learning and innovation, convening, collaboration, and collective action. Burstin formerly served as Chief Scientific Officer of The National Quality Forum and was the Director of the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Before joining AHRQ, Dr. Burstin was an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and was Director of Quality Measurement at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is the author of more than 100 articles and book chapters on quality, safety, equity, and measurement while serving on several prominent national boards. She and the team at CMSS supported an initiative to identify credible sources of health information in social media for Google/YouTube. She serves on the leadership workgroup of the Mitigating Medical Misinformation initiative. Dr. Burstin is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

"We at CTHS are thrilled that Helen will advance our mission with the passion and wisdom cultivated over an extraordinary career of physician leadership devoted to enhancing the special healing relationship between patients and care providers," said CTHS board chair and co-founder Dr. Reed Tuckson. "At this critical time, it is essential that health organizations and workers continue to learn how to listen and engage with people in collaborative decision making and Helen will immediately add value to this important aspect of our work."

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“I am excited to take on this role with the Coalition,” said Dr. Burstin. “It is the right time to align and coordinate our efforts across medicine and science to address the erosion of trust and the proliferation of misleading narratives that we must combat together.”

Burstin’s new role will build on her past efforts with the Coalition. She recently participated in a town hall, *Navigating Health Misinformation: Tips for Finding Reliable Information*, where a panel of experts convened by the Coalition in partnership with the National Consumers League and supported by BlackDoctor.org discussed strategies for identifying trustworthy health information. The discussion addressed consumers’ challenges and solutions in navigating health information amid widespread misinformation. She also supported the Coalition’s Building Trust Scholars’ Initiative.

A graduate of the State University of New York at Upstate College of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Burstin completed her residency training in primary care internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and fellowship in General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She is a volunteer preceptor and Clinical Professor of Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

About the Coalition for Trust in Health & Science (updating boilerplate)

Founded in March 2023, the Coalition for Trust in Health & Science (CTHS) is a non-profit coalition of more than 90 diverse national organizations aligned to promote trust in health and science and challenge false information through collaboration, collective learning, and timely, evidence-based resources. We are focused on ensuring that everyone is empowered to make informed and personally appropriate health decisions for themselves, their families, and their communities based on accurate, understandable, and evidence-based information. For more information, visit www.trustinhealthandscience.org.

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