



**Saturday, June 13, 2015**

**Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation**

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# Steering Committee and Speakers

## ***Steering Committee***

Carla H. Parris, *chairperson*  
Helen Elrod  
Theresa Norton

Ana Lawrence  
Pam Cason  
Evelyn Norton

## ***Speakers***

### **John A. Washington, Senior Consultant**

Mr. Washington is a native of New Orleans, LA, possesses more than 30 years' experience in investment banking, financial analysis, and small business advocacy. In his career he has developed specialized expertise in providing financial advisory services to both public and private sector clients, with particular emphasis on real estate finance, public finance, and on the identification and development of new market opportunities for small businesses.

Over his career John has provided financial and business consulting services to individuals and corporations. Assignments have included selecting investments and monitoring portfolio performance for clients of an individual investment advisor, performing a comprehensive review of the investment portfolio of a wealthy investor and his family, the arrangement of financing for the expansion of a family owned licensed day care facility, negotiating the refinance of a mortgage on a commercial medical office building, a review of the operations and capital structure of a company which provides clinical trials for experimental drugs and most recently managed credentialing, EHR attestation and PQRS and quality reporting for a family practice clinic.

John has completed various investment banking projects for both public agencies and private firms and possesses extensive Public Finance experience in the New Orleans market and has managed bond issues or served as the Financial Advisor for local issuers including the New Orleans Aviation Board, the City of New Orleans, the Orleans Parish School Board, Entergy, and the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center, among others. John started, staffed, and managed the New Orleans Public Finance office of J. C. Bradford & Co., formerly a Nashville, TN based investment banking firm acquired by a larger concern. For five years Mr. Washington held the position of President and Chief Operating Officer of a FINRA member investment banking firm, responsible for all aspects of the firm's operations, including management of the firm's participation in debt and equity financings, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

A past Board Member of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, John also served as Chairman of the Governance Committee of public radio station WWOZ-FM, and as Treasurer of the Travelers' Aid Society of New Orleans. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his Master's in Business Administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

### **Melesia Tillman, CPC, CRHC, CHA**

Ms. Tillman currently serves as the Coding and Reimbursement Specialist at American College of Rheumatology. Ms. Tillman is a certified professional coder and a certified healthcare auditor. She has more than 15 years of experience in medical billing, coding, and the insurance field.

### **Jason Anderson**

Mr. Anderson is the Director of Operations and Chief Business Development Officer of SoundRheum Diagnostics, the Southeast's largest musculoskeletal ultrasound interpretation service. He is a native South Carolinian and a proud Gamecock alumnus. Jason and his wife spent the previous 11 years living in Utah pursuing different business ventures and are both excited to be back home in the South. Jason enjoys spending time with his family and not traveling the world. You wouldn't know it to look at him, but he can jump really high.

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# Speakers

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**Andrew Ripps**, President, Bendcare

Mr. Ripps has over 27 years of life science management experience in the personalized concierge medicine, pharmaceutical, electronic medical records (EMR) and Internet technology and diagnostics markets. He served as Chief Operating Officer of MDVIP Inc. He served as President of Physician Development for MDVIP, Inc. He served as Executive Vice President of Physician Development of MDVIP. He was a successful entrepreneur and principal in MDVIP. Prior to MDVIP, he served as Executive Vice President of marketing and product management for Cybear, Incorporated. Before joining Cybear, Mr. Ripps held various positions in the sales, marketing and business development departments for GlaxoWellcome. In 1995, he was selected to be one of the initial founders of HealthPoint (later renamed HealthMatics), the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) software company owned by GlaxoWellcome, where he served as HealthPoint's Director of Market Development. He serves as a Director of AssureImmune LLC. He has authored several articles on patient privacy and confidentiality and has testified on this topic before the National Council of Vital Health Statistics in Washington, D.C. Mr. Ripps is a trained pharmacist and received his B.S. in Pharmacy from Union University – Albany College of Pharmacy in 1986.

**Mike Ziskind, M.A.**

Mr. Ziskind is the Director of Public Policy, Strategy and Marketing at Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc.

**Andrea Maines**

Clinical Rheumatology Liason at Crescendo Bioscience.

**Lynette Byrnes**

Ms. Byrnes is the Practice Administrator at Rheumatology Associates of Long Island. Lynette Byrnes has 35 years in the healthcare industry and for the last 11 years she has been the practice manager at Rheumatology Associates of Long Island. She has been published in the ACR Magazine, the MGMA Newsletter. Lynette currently serves as the president of the NYMGMA Long Island Chapter. Lynette also chairs the NORM Education Committee. Her professional goal is to enable physicians in Rheumatology to afford to continue to practice quality care keep autonomy and not fall to the constraints from outside forces by networking with Rheumatology Practice personal across the nation by sharing our challenges and finding solutions.

**Sheryl J. Cherico**, CEO/COO, Co-Founder at TIER 3MD

Ms. Cherico's career began in 1979 and is considered one of the top healthcare IT consultants in the country. In Western New York, she started out in medical billing, AR collections, and practice workflow for a Thoracic surgery group, and moved into software support for Medical Manager. From there she moved to Georgia in 1998 and was involved in the Y2K upgrades for the network division of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia. For those efforts, she was one of the recipients of the President's Award at BCBS of GA.

In 2000 Sheryl travelled the country installing digital cardiac cath lab systems, at places like DePaul in St. Louis, Baylor University in Texas, as well as hospitals in Chicago, Nebraska, New York, Texas, California and Georgia. This groundbreaking technology allowed patients to take their cardiac catheterization diagnostic test on a CD to bring to specialists to help reduce heart attacks, unblock arteries, and perform coronary artery bypass surgery with more knowledge than just the diagnostic reporting.

In 2001 she became the IT Director for the Atlanta Cardiology Group, one of the largest cardiology groups in the Southeast. In 2005, Sheryl and Steve decided to form their own IT company, and began with Atlanta Cardiology as their cornerstone client.

Sheryl is on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Fund, and is also a Board member of Lifeline Animal Project.

She is a 4 time Woman of the Year Nominee for Women in Technology (WIT)