Plenary Speaker Biographies:

Dr. Donna Schwabe (Behavioral Health): Dr. Donna Schwabe is a Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Behavioral Medicine at San Antonio Military Medical Center. She is the Founder and Director of HARBOR, a wellness-based behavioral health program whose mission is to provide a confidential, non-stigmatizing pathway for GME and physician providers to improve their behavioral health and occupational functioning without fear of negative impact on their training or careers. Dr. Schwabe attended Northwestern University as an undergraduate and earned her Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology at Boston College and her Doctorate at Northeastern University. She has provided behavioral health services for the active duty population since 2009, first at Fort Lee in Virginia and now at Joint Base San Antonio (Fort Sam Houston).

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming … who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly...” –Theodore Roosevelt, 1910
LTG (Ret) Eric Schoomaker (Hematologist but speaking in the General Internal Medicine plenary role):

Prior to his retirement in 2012 after 32 years of active service, Lieutenant General (Retired) Eric B. Schoomaker, MD, PhD served as the 42nd U.S. Army Surgeon General and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Medical Command. He currently serves as a Professor and Vice-Chair for Centers and Programs in the Department of Military & Emergency Medicine at the nation’s only Federal health university, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, MD. His principal interests are in both Complementary and Integrative Health & Medicine (CIHM) in the shift from a disease management-focused healthcare system to one more centered on the improvement and sustainment of health & well-being leading to optimal human performance and in leadership education. He is examining the incorporation of CIHM education and training into the education of physicians and other health & healthcare professionals. Doctor Schoomaker is also exploring the central importance of leadership education and training for health professionals, so as to realize USU’s “health leadership academy”.

Doctor Schoomaker committed his career to meeting the health needs of soldiers, their families and veterans through initiatives that Army Medicine implemented throughout its facilities in the U.S., Europe and the Pacific, focusing on soldier medical readiness, enhancing battlefield care, establishing a comprehensive behavioral health system of care, fostering a culture of trust, advancing comprehensive pain management, and promoting health by preventing combat wounds, injury and illness.

Doctor Schoomaker is an internal medicine physician with a PhD in Human Genetics. In uniform he held many assignments including command of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, the Army’s Medical Research & Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, MD, an Army academic medical center, a community hospital, deployable medical brigade and two Army regional medical commands.

Doctor Schoomaker is the recipient of numerous military awards, including those from France and Germany, the 2012 Dr. Nathan Davis Awards from the American Medical Association for outstanding government service, an Honorary Doctor of Science from Wake Forest University, a Doctor of Letters in Medicine from the Baylor College of Medicine, and the Philipp M. Lippe Award from the American Academy of Pain Medicine for outstanding contributions to the social and political aspect of Pain Medicine.

He is married to Audrey, a former Army Nurse Corps Officer and therapeutic yoga and mindfulness instructor; they have a son in college and two daughters, one pursuing graduate studies in counseling and the other with a goal of being a physician.
LTC Paul Faestel (Preventative Medicine): Paul Faestel is presently the Program Director for the Army's Preventive Medicine program at Madigan Army Medical Center. He completed his Preventive Medicine Training and Occupational Medicine Training in 2012 and his Internal Medicine training in 2005. He remains interested in readiness, preventive and lifestyle medicine related concepts and hopes to one day hike up all of Colorado's 14,000 foot summits.
COL (ret) Alexander Niven (Pulmonary/CC): COL(ret) Alexander S. Niven is a Senior Associate Consultant in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Mayo Clinic and Associate Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. He retired from the Army Medical Department after 21 years of active duty service, during which he served as an Internal Medicine Program Director, Director of Medical Education and Research, and Designated Institutional Official at Madigan Army Medical Center. Dr. Niven remains an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He also currently serves as American College of Chest Physicians Education Committee Chair and Medical Director for their Innovation, Simulation, and Training Center. Dr. Niven’s interests include effective teaching strategies in the intensive care unit, and methods to enhance individual and team performance in this setting.
Col (ret) Matthew Dolan (Infectious Disease): Matthew J. Dolan, MD, MACP, FIDSA, PLLC

Dr. Matthew J. Dolan is the Senior Academic Advisor for the Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO), and a Senior Research Physician with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine. Dr. Dolan received his Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts and worked as a scientist at the Basel Institute for Immunology in Switzerland. He received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire, and then completed a residency in Internal Medicine, a fellowship in Infectious Diseases and was the Chief of Medical Residents at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center. Colonel (ret.) Dolan served as Infectious Diseases Department Chairman at Wilford Hall, Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program Director, Infectious Diseases Specialty Consultant for the Air Force Surgeon General and as Director of the Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO) before retiring from the United States Air Force in 2007. He currently holds appointments as a Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and as an Adjoint Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

At DIMO, Dolan developed and taught courses internationally in bioterrorism, laboratory biosafety/biosecurity/ responsible use of biotechnology, disaster planning /pandemic public health planning, biosurveillance and outbreak response. Following chemical weapons use in Syria, he developed and led a series of regional hospital based chemical incident management training programs in Middle East countries. Dolan developed Ebola training programs for the Kofi Annan Peacekeeper Training Center in Ghana for 12 West African nations in 2015, also teaching UN peacekeeping troops from Central and South America. He developed and led courses in HIV, Gender Based Violence, Medical Support for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (MSHADR), and Infection Control/ Hospital Epidemiology/ Healthcare Worker Safety. Dr. Dolan has a background in basic science research in virology, immunology and host genetics with publications in Science, Nature Medicine and Nature Immunology. He was the director of a virology and immunology laboratory for 15 years, and has also worked extensively in research epidemiology, international public health and medical policy development.

An invited speaker on National Public Radio “Science Friday”, Dr. Dolan is a Master of the American College of Physicians (ACP), a recipient of the ACP Laureate Award and a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Dolan has received the Bronze Star Medal from the Army, the Humanitarian Service Medal from the Navy and the Outstanding Science and Engineering Educator Award from the Air Force Association.
COL (ret) Stephen Harrison (Gastroenterology): Dr. Harrison earned his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship at Brooke Army Medical Center and a 4th year advanced liver disease fellowship at Saint Louis University. He is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. Dr. Harrison served as a Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and is currently a Visiting Professor of Hepatology at the Radcliffe Department of Medicine, University of Oxford. He is a past Associate Editor for Hepatology and is currently an Associate Editor for Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics. He is a peer-reviewer for over 20 medical journals and internationally known for studies in hepatitis C and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease with over 180 peer reviewed publications in these fields. Dr. Harrison most recently served as a Colonel in the United States Army. Retiring in 2016, he concluded 20 years of dedicated service to his country. During his army tenure, he served as the Director of Graduate Medical Education at Brooke Army Medical Center, Associate Dean for the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium and Gastroenterology Consultant to the Army Surgeon General. Currently, Dr. Harrison serves as the Medical Director for Pinnacle Clinical Research.