

Spots Are Filling Fast — Secure Your Seat



FOOD AS MEDICINE

6TH
ANNUAL

May 5-6, 2026

Continuing the
Journey from



InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile | Chicago, IL

From Promise to Implementation to Scalable Impact

2026 Featured Speakers



Jeff Bellows

Vice President, Corporate
Citizenship & Public Affairs
Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts



Ipyana Spencer

Chief Health Officer
Meals on Wheels America



Amanda Goldman

System Vice President
Food & Nutrition Services
CommonSpirit Health



Allison Collins

Director, Lifestyle & Culinary
Medicine
Kaiser Permanente



Jon Van Der Veer

Founder & CEO
Hy-Vee Health Exemplar Care



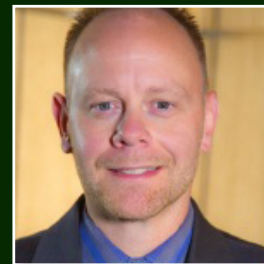
**Angie Kalousek
Ebrahimi**

Senior Director, Clinical
Strategy & Programs
Blue Shield of California



Curt Ellis

Co-Founder & CEO
FoodCorps



Jim Kirby

Chief Commercial Officer
Kroger Health

FoodMedicineSummit.com

The Food as Medicine Summit's Story Continues...



May 5-6, 2026

**InterContinental Chicago
Magnificent Mile | Chicago, IL**

Now entering its sixth year, the Food as Medicine Summit is evolving once again. What began in 2021 at GreyGreen Media has grown into the premier meeting point for leaders dedicated to transforming Food as Medicine from a promising concept into a scalable, evidence-based reality.

The foundational pillars of the Summit—unparalleled networking, a forward-thinking agenda, and senior representation from every key sector—remain stronger than ever. For 2026, we are introducing new, dynamic features designed to accelerate your impact. As the landscape of healthcare and nutrition continues to shift, it is vital that we unite to deliver these solutions to those with the greatest unmet needs.

Top Five Reasons to Attend the 2026 Summit

- 1. Shape the Future of the Industry:** The most critical conversations in Food as Medicine happen here. This is your opportunity to absorb pioneering insights, contribute your expertise, and bring actionable strategies back to your organization.
- 2. Create Lasting Connections:** Meet with senior leaders from healthcare, community-based organizations, the food industry, government, retail, and technology. These stakeholders are actively seeking partners to further accelerate the integration of Food as Medicine into mainstream care.
- 3. Navigate the Evolving Policy Landscape:** The 2026 Summit is timed to provide crucial analysis of how new and existing policies will impact the Food as Medicine movement. Hear directly from government leaders and policy experts as they share essential updates and future projections.
- 4. Gain Evidence-Based Insights from Real-World Application:** Our agenda is packed with case studies and presentations from the front lines of implementation. Learn the practical lessons and validated outcomes from leading organizations that are successfully deploying Food as Medicine initiatives.
- 5. Engage in Interactive, Peer-to-Peer Learning:** We have expanded our discussion-led formats throughout the agenda. These sessions are designed for you to connect with fellow attendees, share challenges, and co-create solutions in a structured, interactive environment.



"The conference is an opportunity for people taking multiple approaches to Food as Medicine to come together. A multisystem approach is necessary as we know there will be greater collective impact. We need the opportunity to get in a room together to discuss how we can all work together including farmers, grocery store chains, marketing, restaurants, nutrition education- all of saying the same message rooted in science. This conference can give us all an opportunity to do this."

2025 Attendee

Members of the Food as Medicine Movement Include:



What's NEW for 2026?

As we launch the sixth year of the Food as Medicine series, our commitment is to deepen the summit's impact on your work and the field at large. For 2026, we are introducing significant enhancements to ensure every attendee, whether a first-timer or a returning colleague, has a powerful and productive experience.

1. **Actionable Intelligence Framework:** This year introduces a new approach to capturing and connecting insights from every session, helping attendees turn ideas into practical, personalized strategies that extend well beyond the event.
2. **Strategic Networking Blocks:** We have re-engineered the schedule to feature dedicated, extended networking blocks. This provides more than double the time for the deep, meaningful conversations needed to build lasting partnerships, catch up with colleagues, and forge new alliances.
3. **Enhanced Audience Engagement:** Your voice is more crucial than ever. Through new structured networking formats and interactive learning sessions, you will have more opportunities to contribute your perspective, learn directly from your peers, and build connections based on shared challenges and goals.
4. **Spotlight on New Innovators:** The Food as Medicine ecosystem is constantly expanding. The 2026 agenda features more new voices and pioneering perspectives than ever before, guaranteeing fresh insights that will challenge your thinking and advance your work.
5. **Expanded Innovation Showcase:** Discover the next wave of solutions. We are shining a brighter spotlight on the organizations driving progress, with an expanded exhibition area featuring companies on the front lines and the technologies making this work a clinical reality.





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TUESDAY, MAY 5

12:00 pm Registration Open

Kick off the Food as Medicine Summit with new connections and old friends.

THE FOOD, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH LANDSCAPE

1:00 Chair's Welcome Remarks

Martin Tull, Chief Impact Officer, American College of Lifestyle Medicine

1:10 KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION AND OPEN Q&A: The Food as Medicine Industry Speaks

Moderator: Rick Leach, Executive Director, Food as Medicine Initiative, Arizona State University

- How has the Food as Medicine movement evolved over the past year, and what new opportunities are emerging?
- What policy shifts are creating the biggest impact on adoption and access?
- How are we demonstrating value and scalability of Food as Medicine approaches?
- Where are the most promising models of success currently emerging?
- What are the most significant barriers slowing down progress, and how can they be overcome?

Panelists:

Haleta Belai, Vice President, Drivers of Health, Centene

Geeta Maker-Clark, MD, ABOIM, Co-Director, Culinary Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor Pritzker School of Medicine; Director, Integrative Nutrition and Advocacy, University of Chicago; Endeavor Health

Shreela V. Sharma, PhD, Professor & Vice Chair, Epidemiology & Director, Center for Health Equity Research, University of Texas, Houston

Jim Thorne, President Nourish Ventures & Senior Vice President, Partnerships & Strategy, Griffith Foods Ltd.

1:55 Medically Tailored Meals: Clinical Evidence, Economic Impact, and Policy Opportunity

Catherine Macpherson, MS, RDN, Senior Vice President, Chief Nutrition Officer, Moms Meals

Emily Gillen, PhD, Head of Global Data Partnerships, UCB

This session explores the role of medically tailored meals within the broader Food as Medicine movement—an approach gaining momentum as health care organizations seek more effective ways to support individuals with chronic conditions. Attendees will learn from key findings in recent research, including real-world program outcomes and national modeling that demonstrate the potential impact of medically tailored meals at scale. The session will also examine what this evidence means for health systems and payers working to design and implement more effective, outcomes-driven nutrition strategies.



2:20 KEYNOTE INTERVIEW: Food as Medicine, Nourishing Change, and Kroger Health

Jim Kirby, PharmD, BCPS, FAPhA, Chief Commercial Officer, Kroger Health

2:50 Networking Coffee Break

Networking is a core pillar of The Food as Medicine Summit. To help kick off The Food as Medicine Summit, this extended networking session will enable you to connect with new peers and old friends to broaden and deepen your network in the field.

THE VALUE AND ROI OF FOOD AS MEDICINE

3:35 Creating Shared Value—How Better-for-You Brands Drive Health and Growth

Laura Brown, MS, RDN, LDN, Director, Nutrition, Kroger Health

Nate Cooper, Founder & Managing Partner, Barrell Ventures

Emily Groden, Founder & CEO, Evergreen

This session explores how brands are redefining value by improving consumer

health outcomes while strengthening retailer performance. Hear how initiatives like the Good Food Collective are aligning industry standards, policy proposals such as front-of-pack labeling, and brand collaboration to create measurable impact and mutual benefit across the food ecosystem.

4:15 Scaling Impact—What We Learned from 1 Million Screenings, 200 Thousand Referrals, and 3 Years of Food as Medicine

Amy Flowers, Director, Data Analytics, National Association of Community Health Centers

Melanie Hall, MS, RD, Chief Research & Innovation Officer, Feeding America

Explore how Feeding America's network of food banks and food co-ops have evolved from emergency food providers to strategic health partners. This session presents the final health outcome data, from their three-year Food as Medicine evaluation, highlighting how food bank-health care partnerships are reshaping chronic disease care. The presentation will explore how participant feedback, health metrics, and community engagement informed program design and delivery.

4:45 PANEL DISCUSSION: Beyond Demonstrating the Value—How Can We Convince Commercial Decision-Makers?

Moderator: Angie Kalousek Ebrahimi, Senior Director, Lifestyle Medicine, Blue Shield of California

- How do we measure success beyond healthcare cost savings to include broader social impact?
- What gaps remain in data collection and evaluation—and how can they be addressed?
- How do we communicate long-term benefits to stakeholders focused on short-term budgets?
- How do public-private partnerships help build the evidence base?
- How do we counter skepticism from stakeholders who are unconvinced by current ROI studies?

Panelists:

Philip Erlanger, PhD, Co-Founder & Senior Advisor, Aliment Capital

Wesley McWhorter, DrPH, MS, RDN, LD, CSCS, Vice President, Lifestyle Medicine, Suvida Healthcare

Michael Lawsky, CEO of N4L Health, President of L-Nutra

Paul Norton, Senior Director, BluePath Health

5:30 Networking Reception (Sponsorship Opportunity Available)

At the end of Day 1, continue to make new connections, connect with folks you met earlier during the day, and catch up with old friends.

6:30 Close of Day

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

8:00 am Registration Open & Networking Breakfast

Connect with your new, extended network over breakfast to get Day 2 of The Food as Medicine Summit started.

THE FRONT LINE OF FOOD AS MEDICINE

9:00 Chair's Welcome Remarks

Scott Bowman, Co-Founder, The NOURISH Movement; Board Member, Clareo

9:10 PANEL DISCUSSION AND OPEN Q&A: Lessons Learned from the Front Line of Food as Medicine

Moderator: Curt Ellis, Co-Founder & CEO, FoodCorps

- What's working well in frontline program delivery, and what isn't?
- How are community-based organizations and healthcare providers collaborating in practice?
- What have we learned about patient engagement and retention?
- How can frontline staff be better supported to deliver these programs effectively?



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- What innovations are emerging at the community level that deserve broader adoption?

- How do we ensure equity in delivery across different populations and geographies?

Panelists:

Jeffrey Bellows, Vice President Corporate Citizenship & Public Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Allison Collins, MD, DipABLM, CCMS, Director, Lifestyle & Culinary Medicine, Kaiser Permanente

Ipyana Spencer, Chief Health Officer, Meals on Wheels America

Kelleen Zubick, Managing Director, Health Systems, Share Our Strength

10:00 From Prescribed to Consumed: Rethinking What Medically-Tailored Meals Must Deliver

Rebecca Sarac, Medically Tailored Meals Program Lead, CookUnity

Sheeba Ibadunni, Director, Healthcare & Payors, CookUnity

The evidence base for Food as Medicine is established. The harder question is whether the meals being delivered are actually working. This session brings together clinical, behavioral, and operational perspectives to examine what separates high-adherence medically-tailored meal programs from those that fall short—and what health plans, providers, and care teams can do to drive real, sustained outcomes for their members.

10:25 Coffee Break with Exhibit Viewing

The final extended networking break gives attendees the opportunity to make extra connections and set the next steps for their discussions beyond the walls of the event with the new and old members of their network.

SCALING FOOD AS MEDICINE

10:55 PANEL DISCUSSION: Harnessing Collaborative Expertise to Scale Food as Medicine

Moderator: Edwin McDonald, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Associate Director, Adult Clinical Nutrition, UChicago

Utilizing the collective expertise of physicians, dietitians, nurses, pharmacists, and other care professionals is essential to advancing Food as Medicine within healthcare. This session will highlight how coordinated, team-based approaches can drive successful implementation and expansion of Food as Medicine programs across diverse care settings. Speakers will share lessons learned in aligning clinical workflows, managing data sharing, and establishing sustainable funding mechanisms that enable consistent impact and measurable outcomes.

Panelists:

Hasime Adili, Director, Food Services, UChicago Medicine

Rebecca Illic, MS, RD, LDN, Director, Clinical Nutrition and Diabetes Education, UChicago Medicine

Javier Haro, Founder, Cocina Rx

11:45 How Food Is Medicine Drives Better Chronic Care Outcomes, Quality Performance, and Local Economic Impact

Terese Hill, Manager, Food Is Medicine Strategy, Fairview Health Services

Anna Richardson, Market Access Program Director, The Good Acre Food Hub

Jolene Tanner, Senior Director, Community Health & Social Impact Programs, UnitedHealth Group

Food insecurity and diet-related chronic conditions continue to undermine outcomes, equity, and quality performance. This session highlights a cross-sector Food Is Medicine (FIM) partnership that integrates primary care, community-based nutrition support, and local food systems to improve blood pressure, A1C, and HEDIS-aligned quality measures. Attendees will learn practical strategies to operationalize culturally responsive FIM models, align outcomes to value-based care, and build scalable, sustainable prevention-focused solutions.

12:15 pm KEYNOTE INTERVIEW: Health, Food, and Nutrition within CMS

Stephanie Carlton, Deputy Administrator and Chief of Staff, CMS

12:45 Networking Luncheon

ALIGNING INCENTIVES & REVOLUTIONIZING PATIENT OUTCOMES

1:45 PANEL DISCUSSION: Aligning Incentives to Drive Scalable, Sustainable Food as Medicine Models

Moderator: Virginia Barnes, MPH, CHIE, Director, Blue Health Initiatives, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

- What partnership structures have proven most effective in moving beyond pilot programs?

- How can data interoperability be improved between healthcare and community partners?

- What role should payers play in advancing long-term funding for Food as Medicine?

- How do we align missions and metrics across sectors with differing priorities?

- What models show promise for building sustainable, scalable Food as Medicine ecosystems?

- How can federal and state policy support cross-sector collaboration?

Panelists:

Elizabeth Burger, Senior Vice President, Programs & Strategy, Sunflower Foundation
David Dungan, MD, FACP, FAAP, CCMS, Director / Champion, Duly Culinary Medicine / Duly Wellness

Adam Wallace, Director, Health, Instacart

Monica Yepes-Rios, MD, FACP, Medical Director, Community Health, Food as Medicine, Cleveland Clinic

2:35 PANEL DISCUSSION: Revolutionizing Outcomes for Patients through Food as Medicine

Moderator: Sunny Sharma, MD, FACP, DipACLM, CMD, RMO, Internal Medicine and Lifestyle Medicine Physician, MDVIP Physician, Regional Medical Officer for Ascension Medical Group of Illinois

- How do we better integrate Food as Medicine into existing care pathways?

- What strategies support long-term patient adherence and engagement?

- What role does clinician education and buy-in play in outcomes?

- How can Food as Medicine programs better serve diverse populations with varied needs?

- What evidence do we have so far on clinical outcomes, and what is still needed?

- How do we design scalable programs that remain personalized and patient-centered?

Panelists:

Ajay Joseph, MD FACC DipABLM, Medical Director, Lifestyle Medicine, St. Francis Health System

Susan Spratt, MD, Senior Medical Director, Duke Population Health Management, Duke Health

Jon Van Der Veer, D.O., Founder & CEO, Hy-Vee Health Exemplar Care

3:25 Networking Break & Afternoon Refreshments

BUILDING THE FOOD AS MEDICINE ECOSYSTEM

3:55 Fruitful Collaboration—Enhancing Health through Culinary Care

Amanda Goldman, MS, RD, LD, FAND, System Vice President, Food & Nutrition Services, CommonSpirit Health

Tonya Johnson, Market Director, Food & Nutrition Services, CommonSpirit Health

Culinary medicine integrates nutrition science with cooking skills to empower individuals to manage and prevent chronic diseases through their food



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choices. This evidence-based field emphasizes healthy food preparation and selections to make nutritional changes sustainable and enjoyable. This presentation is full of tools and real-life examples of strategies for building collaboration in order to help elevate the dining experience for individuals and families while building healthier communities.

4:25 PANEL DISCUSSION: Developing a Vibrant Food as Medicine Network in Managed Care

Moderator: Sarah E. Morrow, Program Director, Clinical and Community Programs, UPMC Health Plan

This panel brings together partners within UPMC for You's FAM network to illustrate the value of engaging local, statewide, and national partners to support Medicaid members through a constellation of Food as Medicine approaches. Produce prescriptions, food reclamation, and medically tailored meals will be highlighted, in addition to how to integrate these approaches into MCO care management processes, community settings, and clinical settings as appropriate.

Panelists:

Julia Koprak, Director, Incentives, Healthcare & Policy, The Food Trust

Catherine Macpherson, MS, RDN, Senior Vice President & Chief Nutrition Officer, Mom's Meals

Josh Weiland, Vice President, Operations, 412 Food Rescue

5:15 Close of Conference

Sponsorship Opportunities

CHI offers comprehensive packages that can be customized to your budget and objectives. Sponsorship allows you to achieve your goals before, during, and long after the event. Packages may include presentations, exhibit space and branding, as well as the use of delegate lists. Signing on early will maximize your exposure to qualified decision-makers and drive traffic to your website in the coming months.

Podium Presentations — Available within Main Agenda!

Showcase your solutions to a guaranteed, targeted audience through a 15- or 30-minute presentation during a specific program, breakfast, lunch, or a pre-conference workshop. Package includes exhibit space, on-site branding, and access to cooperative marketing efforts by CHI. Lunches are delivered to attendees who are already seated in the main session room. Presentations will sell out quickly! Sign on early to secure your talk

Invitation-Only Dinner

Select specific delegates from the pre-registration list to attend a private function at an upscale restaurant or a reception at the hotel. From extending the invitations, to venue suggestions, CHI will deliver your prospects and help you make the most of this invaluable opportunity

One-to-One Meetings

CHI will set up 6-8 in-person meetings during the conference, based on your selections from the advance registration list. Our staff will handle invites, confirmations and reminders, and walk the guest over to the meeting area. This package also includes a meeting space at the venue, complimentary main-conference registrations, branding, an 8'x10' exhibit space, and more.

Exhibit

Exhibitors will enjoy facilitated networking opportunities with qualified delegates, making it the perfect platform to launch a new product, collect feedback, and generate new leads. Exhibit space sells out quickly, so reserve yours today!



Additional branding and promotional opportunities are available, including:

- Reception Break Sponsor
- Conference Tote Bags
- Literature Distribution (Tote Bag Insert or Chair Drop)
- Registration Area Sponsor
- Badge Lanyards
- Conference Materials Advertisement
- Padfolios and More...



**For more information,
please contact:**

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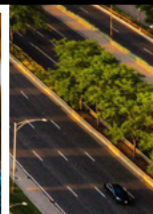
Join Us in Chicago

HOTEL & TRAVEL INFORMATION

Conference Venue and Hotel:
InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile
505 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

Discounted Room Rate:
\$319 s/d includes complimentary Wi-Fi
Room Rate Cut-off Date: April 6, 2026

For hotel reservations and additional
information, please go to the [Travel Page](#)
[FoodMedicineSummit.com](#)





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INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE PRICING

(Includes access to full conference (2 days) & networking events)

STANDARD REGISTRATION AND ON-SITE	FOOD INDUSTRY RETAIL, CPG, MANUFACTURER, FOODTECH, MEAL DELIVERY	HMO, HEALTHCARE, HOSPITAL, INVESTOR/BANKER	NFP, COMMUNITY- BASED ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC- GOVERNMENT
	\$1,899	\$1,499	\$1099

GROUP CONFERENCE PRICING

(Includes access to full conference (2 days) & networking events)

STANDARD REGISTRATION AND ON-SITE	FOOD INDUSTRY RETAIL, CPG, MANUFACTURER, FOODTECH, MEAL DELIVERY	HMO, HEALTHCARE, HOSPITAL, INVESTOR/BANKER	NFP, COMMUNITY- BASED ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC- GOVERNMENT
	\$1,429	\$1,129	\$829

CONFERENCE DISCOUNTS*

GROUP DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE

Have your colleagues or team attend the Food as Medicine Summit. Purchase a full-price registration, and participants from the same organization will receive a 25% discount.

For more information on group discounts contact Juliet Nelson, jnelson@healthtech.com, 781-247-1813

ALUMNI DISCOUNT—SAVE 15%: We appreciate your participation at The Food as Medicine Summit. As a result of the great loyalty you have shown the series, we are pleased to extend to you the exclusive opportunity to save an additional 15% off the registration rate.

How to Register: FoodMedicineSummit.com

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Please use keycode
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