



December 8, 2020 - Panelists



Daniel Abdul

SVP, Chief Technology Officer

Medica

Mr. Dan Abdul is a visionary leader in Digital Products and Technology Delivery. He has led global and cross-functional teams in Technology Services, and Health Care industries, through growth and transformations. He currently is the Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for Medica Health Plans. He has previously served in various CIO and CTO roles.

Daniel also sits on several boards including, Ecumen, a national provider of Long-Term Care and Mental Health Connect, which works to open doors for those living with Mental Illness.

Teddy Bekele

Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer

Land O'Lakes

Teddy is the Chief Technology Officer at Land O'Lakes, Inc. He has a passion for researching, developing and implementing innovative technology solutions to help retailers and farmers produce more nutritious food while using fewer resources in new and sustainable ways. Prior to joining Land O'Lakes, Teddy held several leadership roles at Ingersoll Rand where he led teams in IT Program Management, developed technology strategies for Engineering and Innovation, and custom software development.



He holds an MBA from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University. Most recently, he was appointed as Chairman of the Minnesota Broadband Task Force as well as Chairman of the FCC Task Force for Precision Agriculture Connectivity and Adoption. Teddy is a thought leader in emerging technology. He has been featured in the media including Fortune, ComputerWorld, MIT Sloan Management Review, BBC and 60 Minutes. In 2017, was selected as a Minnesotan to Meet by WCCO.

He has lived in three different continents and speaks fluent Italian and Amharic. He currently lives in Minneapolis, MN with his wife Michele and 7-year-old son, Teddy Jr. and their newborn daughter, Luna.



Casey Gordon

Chief Information Officer

[College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University](#)

Dr. Casey Gordon is the Chief Information Officer at the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University. She has a lifelong passion for exploring topics that bring together learning and technology, as well as leadership and collaboration. Dr. Gordon holds a PhD in Educational Leadership and Higher Education from the University of Nebraska Lincoln, a Master of Education from the University of Minnesota Duluth and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Minnesota Morris.

Laura Groschen

VP, Chief Information Officer, Cardiovascular Business and
Medtronic Global Functions

[Medtronic](#)



Laura Groschen leads IT for Medtronic's largest business group and all global functions. She is responsible for building new capabilities and expertise to drive operational effectiveness and optimize technology expenditures. She also serves as a strategic business partner, positioning IT to support business growth through technology innovation.

Laura brings a strong track record of driving transformational change to deliver business growth, operational efficiency and team engagement, while improving the customer experience. She came to Medtronic from United Health Group, where she served as Vice President and Chief Information Officer, creating and leading a \$4 billion commercial technology solutions and consulting business.

Prior to United Health Group, Laura held several executive leadership roles in technology and in business at Wells Fargo and KPMG. Laura has a bachelor's in Business Administration and Management Information Systems from the University of Minnesota.



Anthony (Tony) M. Peleska

VP of IT and Head of Digital Transformation

[Kraus-Anderson Corporation](#)

Tony Peleska is a recognized technology leader known for his futuristic strategic vision to achieve business goals. Tony has more than 21 years of business oriented technology experience in the legal, banking, construction and financial service industries. He currently serves as the Vice President of Information Technology and Head of Digital Transformation at Kraus Anderson Corporation where he provides a unique blend of financial acumen, global IT vision and partnerships, and cutting edge software development solutions. Tony has built a

responsive IT organization that consistently delivers, making Kraus Anderson on of the premiere construction organizations in the United States.

Tony provides leadership and insight by serving on a variety of boards, councils and leadership organizations. He has been elected to serve for a second term as Board Chair for the Arden Hills Board of Directors, Board Chair for New Vision Foundation and Board Chair for the Association of Information and Image Management (AIIM) where he is also a Fellow. He is a board member of the Evanta CIO Leadership Network and Autodesk Software Corporation where he serves as a speaker and facilitator. In addition, he serves on the steering committee for the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce Leadership Advisory Council.



Christopher Ross
Chief Information Officer
[Mayo Clinic](#)

Cris Ross has experience in healthcare, technology, and government. At Mayo Clinic, he is responsible for information technology and medical technology. Since joining in 2012, he introduced new technology strategy, helped lead one of the nation's largest electronic health record convergence programs, developed external partnerships, and initiated major innovation programs. Prior to joining Mayo Clinic he held technology and business leadership roles with Surescripts, CVS/MinuteClinic, and UnitedHealth Group. Previously he held roles as a tech entrepreneur, financial manager, and Congressional aide.

He chairs the board of the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and serves on boards of CaringBridge and Zipnosis. He served on the U.S. Department of Human Services Health IT Standards Committee, was former chair of the eHealth Initiative, and served on advisory panels for the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HL7, and the Veterans Administration.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from the University of Minnesota and MBA degree from the Yale School of Management.

Shawn Swearingen
Chief Innovation Officer
[Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLC](#)



Shawn Swearingen is the Chief Innovation Officer at the law firm of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath – an AmLaw 100 firm with over 1300 legal and consulting professionals worldwide. Her Innovation team consists of professionals in data science & analytics, knowledge management, client design services, legal process improvement and legal project management. She previously served as Senior Director of Technology and Interim CIO at Faegre Baker Daniels, and before that Director of Client Technology Solutions and Knowledge Management.

Shawn holds a Masters of Library and Information Science, is a Certified Knowledge Manager, is certified in ITIL Foundation and has a white belt in Legal Lean Six Sigma. In 2012, Minnesota Lawyer presented her with the Unsung Legal Hero award for consistently going above and beyond the call of duty in the legal profession.