

# NCIHC Language Access Congress 2026

## AGENDA

Times listed are US Eastern

THURS  
09/24

- 
- 2:00–4:00 pm **Hospital Visit** (registration is required)  
[Care New England Women & Infants Hospital Interpreter Services Department](#)
- 6:30–9:00 pm **Welcome Reception | Meet & Greet**  
[TBD](#)

FRIDAY  
09/25

- 
- NCIHC Language Access Congress 2026**  
[Aloft Providence Hotel, 191 Dorrance St, Providence, RI 02903](#)
- 8:00–8:45 am **Registration**  
[CIC Providence, 225 Dyer St, Providence, RI 02903](#)
- 8:15–9:00 am **Full Breakfast**  
[CIC Cafe Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor](#)
- 9:00–9:15 am **Welcome Address**  
Natalya Myrateva, Emcee & Andy Schwieter, President NCIHC  
[CIC Assembly Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor](#)
- 9:15–10:30 am **Keynote**  
Lisa Diamond, MD, MPH, MHS, FACP, Associate Attending, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Dept. of Medicine  
***Beyond Concordance: Building the Clinician-Interpreter Partnership***  
[CIC Assembly Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor](#)
- 10:30–10:45 am **Break/Transition**
- 
- 10:45–11:30 am **Lessons Learned from the Field: Reflections on Successful Partnerships with Medical Interpreters in Clinical Care, Education, Research, and Program Development**  
[session block 1](#)  
Facilitator: Jessica Goldhirsch; Panelists: Nina Scott, Luciana Canestraro, Allison Wise, Melad Soliman, Alexandra Dobie  
[Room 1](#)
- Your Voice Is a Policy Tool: How Healthcare Interpreters and Advocates Can Shape the Laws and Policies That Govern Language Access**  
Presenters: Liliana Dinu, Joana Ramos, Fabiola Rojas Alvarado  
[Room 2](#)
- From Language Access to Patient Outcomes: Building Accountable Systems in Healthcare**  
Presenter: Natasha Davis  
[Room 3](#)
-

## Agenda continued

FRIDAY  
09/25

---

11:30–12:45 pm **Lunch & Visit our Sponsors**  
CIC Cafe Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

---

12:45–2:00 pm **Beyond Interpretation: Building a Qualified Bilingual Workforce in Healthcare Systems**  
session block 2

Presenter: Madelyn Lorena Jiménez-Torres and Kimberly Pineda  
Room 1

**Orchestrating Equity: Coordinated Strategies for System Wide Language Access Transformation**

Presenters: Justin T Menke, N. Chineye (Chi) Anako  
Room 2

**Managing Dual Role for Language Professionals: Strategies for Interpreting Versus Translating**

Presenter: Bindiya JHA  
Room 3

2:00–2:15 pm **Break/Transition**

---

2:15–3:30 pm **Language Justice in Action: Mapping the Future of Responsible AI-Augmented Translation and Interpretation in Healthcare**  
session block 3

Presenters: Marina Persoglia Bell, Vonessa Costa  
Room 1

**Reading the Room: Contextual Judgment, Communicative Equity, and the Irreplaceable Human Interpreter**

Presenters: Dr. Frank Mann Dolce, Liliana Dinu  
Room 2

**Language Access Plan Development: Building Plans That Actually Work in Healthcare**

Debbie Lesser  
Room 3

3:30–3:45 pm **Break/Transition**

---

## Agenda continued

FRIDAY  
09/25

3:45–5:00 pm  
session block 4

### **The Future of Ethics**

Facilitator: Giovanna Carriero-Contreras, AAITE; Panelists: Janis Palma, NAJIT  
Christina Green, ATA, Andy Schwieter, NCIHC  
[Room 1](#)

### **Promoting Health Equity Through Language Access: Case Study from Harborview Medical Center**

Presenters: Yuliya Speroff, Jean-Jacques Kayembe  
[Room 2](#)

### **Beyond Words: Human Cognitive Skills at the Heart of Interpreting Performance**

Presenters: Jorge U. Ungo, Mateo Rutherford  
[Room 3](#)

6:30–9:00 pm

**Interpretini Reception** and the **Language Access Champion Award**  
(registration is required)  
[Brown University, Brown Faculty Club](#)

SAT  
09/26

8:00–8:40 am

**Full Breakfast**  
[CIC Cafe Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor](#)

8:40–8:50 am

**Opening Remarks**  
[CIC Assembly Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor](#)

8:50–9:00 am

**Break**

9:00–10:00 am  
session block 5

### **We Were Never Monolingual: Rethinking Healthcare Systems and Leading Language Access Transformation**

Presenter: Carol Gizell Velandia Pardo  
[Room 1](#)

### **When Language Access Plans Aren't Enough: What Behavioral Health Systems Must Do Next**

Presenters: Cecily Jane Rodriguez, Anne Walters, Tanyika Mobley  
[Room 2](#)

### **Voices That Must Be Heard: Linguistic Equity and the Interpreter-SLP Partnership in Medically Complex Care**

Presenter: Dr. Aigerim (Aya) Aliakparova, Dr. Panayiota Senekis-Florent  
[Room 3](#)

10:00–10:10 am **Break**

## Agenda continued

SAT  
09/26

10:10–11:10 am  
session block 6

### **Grow Our Own: Leveraging the Hospital as a Classroom to Train the Next Generation of Medical Interpreters**

Presenter: Paul Spacek

[Room 1](#)

### **Fluency in Systems - Expanding Your On-Site Language Access Team in the World of Business and Political Interest**

Presenter: Evan Lee-Ferrand

[Room 2](#)

### **From Classroom to Certification: Aligning Training, Credentialing, and Career Sustainability**

Presenter: Valeria Barraza Delmar

[Room 3](#)

11:10–11:20 am

### **Break**

11:20–12:20 pm  
session block 7

### **Defining "Safe Enough": A Framework for Evaluating Raw Machine Translation in Written Healthcare Communication**

Presenter: Andy Schwieter

[Room 1](#)

### **Your Language Access Program Is Running, But Is It Working?**

Presenter: Dr. Julie Mills

[Room 2](#)

### **Holding AI Vendors Accountable: A Practical Toolkit for Healthcare Language Access Leaders**

Presenter: Eliana Lobo

[Room 3](#)

12:20–12:25 pm

### **Quick Break**

12:25–12:40 pm

### **Closing Remarks**

CIC Assembly Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor