

NCIHC Language Access Congress 2026

AGENDA

Times listed are US Eastern

THURS
09/24

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- 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**
WXYZ Bar (in the Aloft Hotel lobby)

FRIDAY
09/25

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- NCIHC Language Access Congress 2026**
Aloft 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, 2nd Floor
- 9:00–9:15 am **Welcome Address**
Natalya Myrateva, Emcee & Andy Schwieter, President NCIHC
CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd 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, 2nd Floor
- 10:30–10:45 am **Break/Transition**
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- 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
CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor
- 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
Watch Hill
- From Language Access to Patient Outcomes: Building Accountable Systems in Healthcare**
Presenter: Natasha Davis
Innovators' Lounge
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Agenda continued

FRIDAY
09/25

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

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

Presenters: Madelyn Lorena Jiménez-Torres, Kimberly Pineda
CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor

Orchestrating Equity: Coordinated Strategies for System Wide Language Access Transformation

Presenters: Justin T Menke, N. Chineye (Chi) Anako
Watch Hill

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

Presenter: Bindiya Jha
Innovators' Lounge

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, Alegna Zavatti
CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor

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

Presenters: Dr. Frank Mann Dolce, Liliana Dinu
Watch Hill

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

Presenter: Debbie Lesser
Innovators' Lounge

3:30–3:45 pm **Break/Transition**

Agenda continued

FRIDAY
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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
CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor

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

Presenters: Yuliya Speroff, Jean-Jacques Kayembe
Watch Hill

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

Presenters: Jorge U. Ungo, Mateo Rutherford
Innovators' Lounge

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, 2nd Floor

8:40–8:50 am

Opening Remarks

CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd 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
Innovators' Lounge

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

Presenters: Cecily Jane Rodriguez, Anne Walters, Tanyika Mobley
CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor

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

Presenters: Dr. Aigerim (Aya) Aliakparova, Dr. Panayiota Senekis-Florent
Watch Hill

10:00–10:10 am **Break**

Agenda continued

SAT
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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
[Innovators' Lounge](#)

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

Presenter: Evan Lee-Ferrand
[CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor](#)

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

Presenter: Valeria Barraza Delmar
[Watch Hill](#)

11:10–11:20 am

Break

11:20–12:20 pm
session block 7

The Revised National Code of Ethics for Interpreters in Health Care: Shaping the Future of Ethical Practice

Presenters: Maria-Paz Beltran Avery, Lorena Castillo, Jane Crandall Kontrimas, Analia Lang, Fabiola Munafo
[CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor](#)

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

Presenter: Dr. Julie Mills
[Innovators' Lounge](#)

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

Presenter: Eliana Lobo
[Watch Hill](#)

12:20–12:25 pm

Quick Break

12:25–12:40 pm

Closing Remarks

[CIC Assembly Hall, 2nd Floor](#)