The US Preventive Services Task Force develops national prevention guidelines for the US. The Affordable Care Act requires private payers to cover without copay preventive interventions recommended by USPSTF. The USPSTF has a portfolio of 80 to 90 recommendation statements, and these recommendations are used broadly in primary care for children and adults, potentially impacting the care of anyone receiving primary care in the US. These guidelines cover prevention broadly including screening for cancer (lung, colorectal, breast, cervical and others), screening for infectious diseases (HIV, HBV, HCV), healthy lifestyle recommendations, and prevention of cardiovascular disease. In this talk, Owens will explain the critical role of modeling in the development of some of the most complex guidelines, with a focus on screening for lung and colorectal cancer.

Douglas K. Owens is the Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Professor, Chair of the Department of Health Policy in the Stanford University School of Medicine and Director of the Center for Health Policy (CHP) in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI). He is a general internist, a Professor of Management Science and Engineering (by courtesy), at Stanford University; and a Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Owens' research includes the application of decision theory to clinical and health policy problems; clinical decision making; methods for developing clinical guidelines; decision support; comparative effectiveness; modeling substance use and infectious diseases; cardiovascular disease; patient-centered decision making; assessing the value of health care services, including cost-effectiveness analysis; quality of care; and evidence synthesis. A member and then Vice Chair of the US Preventive Services Task Force, he has helped lead the development of more than 50 national guidelines on treatment and prevention.

Owens received a BS and an MS from Stanford University, and an MD from the University of California-San Francisco. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and a fellowship in health research and policy at Stanford. Owens is a past-President of the Society for Medical Decision Making. He received the VA Undersecretary’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research, and the Eisenberg Award for Leadership in Medical Decision Making from the Society for Medical Decision Making. He received a MERIT award from the National Institutes on Drug Abuse to study HIV, HCV, and the opioid epidemic. He was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and the Association of American Physicians (AAP).

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