



PRESS RELEASE  
(for immediate release)

## **HERO's Member's Only Think Tank shifts to fully virtual event** *Fall Think Tank will proceed virtually on original date October 12, 2021*

**RALEIGH, NC (September 13, 2021)** – The Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO) has shifted the annual Forum conference to a fully virtual event. HERO's Fall Think Tank will also move to an all-virtual platform, taking place on the originally scheduled date of October 12, 2021. The Think Tank meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. CDT and go to 4:00 p.m. CDT, to better accommodate time zone differences.

Confirmed Fall Think Tank speakers include Daryl Tol, MHA, Executive Vice President of One Mind; Eduardo Sanchez MD, Chief Medical Officer for Prevention at the American Heart Association; Juliette McClendon, PhD, Director of Medical Affairs at Big Health; Karen Hume, MPA, Management Consultant for Houston Business Coalition on Health (HBCH); and Ron Goetzl, PhD, a Senior Scientist and Director of Health & Productivity Studies at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

This Think Tank's topic is "*The Workplace Mental Health and Well-being Ecosystem: Is it working, how to know, and who is included (or excluded) from care?*" Workplace mental health and well-being (MHWB) has long been a vexing issue for companies. In the wake of COVID-19 and a national racial reckoning, employers are ever more aware of the workplace's impact on employee MHWB. Though MHWB does not discriminate based on race, gender, culture, age, or income, these populations are clearly impacted in a myriad of inequitable ways. As workplace behavioral health strategy and technology evolves, employers face new challenges regarding outcomes measurement. At this HERO Think Tank, members will explore how employers are addressing workplace MHWB in 2021 and beyond, emphasizing measurement and the critical importance of taking an approach informed by diversity, equity and inclusion.

HEROForum21 was originally scheduled to take place in Austin, Texas during the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel. As the Delta variant continues to take a strong hold in the U.S. and cases rise, HERO believes in the duty and responsibility of promoting safe practices and supporting public health in this dire time. HERO is committed to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and encourages that all those able should receive the COVID-19 vaccination as well as follow CDC guidelines. HERO will continue to monitor the state of the pandemic for future meetings and events in 2022.

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**About HERO** – HERO (Health Enhancement Research Organization) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation that was established in 1996. HERO is dedicated to identifying and sharing best practices that improve the health and well-being of employees, their families, and communities. To learn more, visit [www.hero-health.org](http://www.hero-health.org). Follow us on Twitter [@heroehm](https://twitter.com/heroehm) or [LinkedIn](#).