



NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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improvements together

Final Roster

Cardiovascular Standing Committee, Fall 2019

Committee Chairs

Mary George, MD, MSPH, FACS, FAHA

Senior Medical Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
Decatur, Georgia

Mary George, MD, MSPH, FACS is the senior Medical Officer for the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at the CDC. She is the Division's lead for quality improvement and represents the Division with several cardiovascular disease clinically related projects and national organizations. Her interests are in quality improvement, and health services research and clinical preventive services for stroke and cardiovascular disease. She has had experience in developing National Quality Forum (NQF)-endorsed clinical quality measures, has served on several quality measure technical expert and advisory panels, and was co-chair of the previous NQF Steering Committee for Cardiovascular performance measures.

Thomas Kottke, MD, MSPH

Medical Director for Population Health, Consulting Cardiologist, HealthPartners
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH, Medical Director for Population Health at HealthPartners, is also a clinical cardiologist in HealthPartners Medical Group, an epidemiologist, and a health services researcher at the HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research in Minneapolis. He holds the academic rank of Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. His primary professional goals are to: 1) understand how to help individuals increase well-being, delay the onset of disability, and extend healthy life expectancy by adopting healthy lifestyles; and 2) implement evidence-informed programs that improve the health and well-being of patients, health plan members, and members of the community.

Committee Members

Linda Briggs, DNP

Assistant Professor, George Washington University, School of Nursing
Washington, District of Columbia

Linda Briggs, DNP, received her doctoral degree from the George Washington University in 2010. Her research focuses on cardiovascular disease, particularly among women. She has published on a variety of cardiovascular topics and received an *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Award in 1989. In the care delivery arena, Ms. Briggs has served in a variety of roles, including cardiac surgical program coordinator and nurse practitioner. In her current role, as assistant professor at the George Washington University School of Nursing, she prepares students to become nurse practitioners.

Leslie Cho, MD

Section Head, Preventive Cardiology and Rehabilitation, Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

Leslie Cho is the section head of Preventive Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation and the Director of the Women's Cardiovascular Center at the Cleveland Clinic. She is uniquely both a Preventive and Interventional cardiologist. She has published numerous articles and co-authored several books in cardiology and is on steering committees of several large randomized control studies. She currently serves on the American Heart Association (AHA) council on Clinical Cardiology Exercise, Cardiac Rehabilitation, and Prevention Committee and has served in the past on American College of Cardiology (ACC) Peripheral Vascular Disease committee. She has also served on NQF Cardiovascular endorsement maintenance committee in the past.

Helene Clayton-Jeter, OD

Healthcare Consultant, Clinical Optometrist, CrossOver Healthcare Ministry
Arlington, Virginia

Dr. Clayton-Jeter is a healthcare consultant and clinical optometrist at CrossOver Healthcare Ministry. She is also Director of Advocacy, Thought Leadership and Policy for the National Alliance against Disparities in Patient Health; Director of Friends of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; Director of Healthcare and Life Sciences, at Innovacore, Inc.; and Founder of HealthScape LifeSciences, LLC. Her over 15 years of experience in federal and state government, as the Cardiovascular and Endocrine Liaison Program Director, in the FDA Commissioner's Office and Commonwealth of Virginia Board Chair positions on the Boards of Health Professions and Optometry, rounds out her over 20 years of clinical, community, and healthcare provider advocacy, population health, and regulatory experience. Dr. Clayton-Jeter received her OD and BA in visual science degrees from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. She earned her BS degree in biology/biochemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Joseph Cleveland, MD

Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery & Surgical Director for Adult Cardiac Transplantation/Mechanical Cardiac Assist Devices, University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, Colorado

Dr. Joseph Cleveland is a Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Surgical Director for Adult Cardiac Transplantation/Mechanical Cardiac Assist Devices at the University of Colorado Denver. He is also the former Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgical Services at the Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Cleveland's clinical interests include cardiovascular conditions, off-pump coronary artery surgery, adult heart and lung transplantation, artificial heart, and valve reconstruction/replacement. His research interests concern myocardial responses to cardiopulmonary bypass and obligatory ischemia associated with heart surgery. Dr. Cleveland has authored/co-authored over 120 publications and 15 book chapters. Dr. Cleveland is a member of numerous national professional associations. He serves on several STS committees, specifically the Task Force on Quality Measurement, responsible for the development of risk models, and the Task Force on Quality Initiatives, which works to provide quality improvement tools/resources to STS members.

Michael Crouch, MD, MSPH, FAAFP

Research Director and Quality Improvement Program Director, Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program and Associate Clinical Professor of Family Medicine, Texas A & M University School of Medicine Bryan, Texas

Dr. Crouch has done extensive speaking and publishing on hypercholesterolemia and heart disease prevention, weight management, pre-diabetes, and quality improvement. Dr. Crouch's experience includes the Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in Academic Family Medicine at the University of Missouri, the Clinical Scientist Training Program at Baylor College of Medicine, and serving as the residency program director at Baylor College of Medicine for 18 years.

Tim Dewhurst, MD, FACC

Interventional Cardiologist, Medical Director for Clinical Value Improvement, Kaiser Permanente, Washington State
Seattle, Washington

Dr. Tim Dewhurst is an active interventional cardiologist at Kaiser Permanente of Washington. He has 17 years of experience in an independent, multispecialty, private practice group where he was a managing board member and chaired the compensation committee. His previous clinical leadership positions have included hospital directorships of the cardiac catheterization labs, cardiovascular clinical quality and chairing the cardiovascular peer review committee. He has worked for the last 8 years in a vertically integrated system where he has held clinical and finance leadership roles. Currently he serves as a half-time medical director for clinical value improvement. This role oversees, and works to reduce, unwarranted clinical variation in a 1200+ member provider group of all specialties. He is an active member of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), serves on national committees, and is the immediate past president of the Washington state ACC chapter.

Kumar Dharmarajan, MD, MBA

Chief Scientific Officer, Clover Health
Jersey City, New Jersey

Kumar Dharmarajan, MD, MBA is a board-certified cardiologist and geriatrician, health outcomes researcher, and quality measure developer at the Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE). He attended Harvard College, the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Columbia Business School. He trained in internal medicine and geriatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital and cardiology at Columbia University Medical Center. His research focuses on health outcomes and healthcare quality for older adults hospitalized with common cardiovascular conditions including heart failure and acute myocardial infarction. He has led outcome measure development for the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services.

William Downey, MD

Medical Director, Interventional Cardiology Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute,
Carolinas HealthCare System
Charlotte, North Carolina

Since arriving at Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) in 2008, Dr. Downey has served in a number of leadership roles including but not limited to Medical Director of Interventional Cardiology with Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute (SHVI). Dr. Downey completed his medical school training at Duke University followed by residency in Internal Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital with Fellowships in Cardiovascular Medicine and Interventional Cardiology at Massachusetts General

Hospital. He also holds a master of science degree from Harvard University in clinical epidemiology. In addition to his teaching and research activities, Dr. Downey has pursued leadership development opportunities through the CHS Physician Leadership Institute at Queen's University as well as programming offered via the Center for Creative Leadership.

Howard Eisen, MD

Medical Director of the Cardiac Transplant, Mechanical Circulatory Support and Advanced Heart Failure Programs
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Dr. Eisen serves as the Medical Director of the Cardiac Transplant, Mechanical Circulatory Support and Advanced Heart Failure Programs at Pennsylvania State. There, he is an active member of the cardiac transplant and overall transplant QAPI (Quality Analysis and Performance Improvement) committees. Previously at Drexel University/Hahnemann, Dr. Eisen presided over quality and performance assessments and improvements as Chief of the Cardiology Divisions. He has also chaired the Cardiology Performance Improvement Council at Drexel/Hahnemann. Dr. Eisen received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and MD degree from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He did his internal medicine residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and received his Cardiology training at the Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes Hospital.

Naftali Zvi Frankel, MS

Principal, Déclore Consulting
New York, New York

Naftali Zvi Frankel is an experienced consumer and patient advocate whose areas of focus include patient-centered health policy, outcomes data transparency, patient access to new therapeutics and clinical trials, patient privacy and HIT innovation, and health quality improvement. He has assisted patients faced with critical medical decisions, with extensive research and analysis of scientific studies, outcomes data, available treatments, and specialists. He has served as a consumer and patient representative on various national committees, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Circulatory System Devices Advisory Committee, American Heart Association Citizen Scientist Think Tank, and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)-Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR) Collaborator Team. He has also represented the position of consumers and patients as a peer reviewer for PCORI, Commonwealth Fund Breakthrough Health Care Opportunities Committee member, and Panelist at the National Academy of Sciences workshop on Real-World Evidence Generation and Evaluation of Therapeutics. In 2014, he published a widely read article in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, "Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement vs Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement: A Consumer's Perspective Regarding Data Education and Transparency of Hospitals," highlighting the patient's need for increased hospital data transparency. He received his MS degree in regulatory science from Johns Hopkins University.

Jake Galdo, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, BCGP

Director, Education and Program Development, Pharmacy Quality Alliance
Birmingham, Alabama

Jake Galdo is the Director of Education and Program Development for the Pharmacy Quality Alliance. He plans and implements educational and training programs. Previously, he was Director of Performance Measurement. Prior to joining PQA, Jake was an assistant professor at a school of pharmacy and a clinical pharmacy educator in independent pharmacy overseeing all clinical and academic operations.

Jake received his Doctor of Pharmacy and residency training from the University of Georgia, earned an MBA from Samford University, and is board certified in both pharmacotherapy and geriatrics.

Ellen Hillegass, PT, EdD, CCS, FAACVPR, FAPTA

American Physical Therapy Association
Sandy Springs, Georgia

Dr. Ellen Hillegass is a longstanding member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) with over 20 years of clinical experience with a focus on cardiovascular care, with APTA board certification in cardiovascular and pulmonary clinical specialty. She currently holds position of Adjunct Professor at Mercer University in Atlanta in the Department of Physical Therapy, at Touro University in Las Vegas, Nevada and at Western Carolina, North Carolina. Ellen is also the President and CEO of Cardiopulmonary Specialists, a private consulting firm that provides consulting and education on cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation.

Charles Mahan, PharmD, PhC, RPh

Presbyterian Healthcare Services, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dr. Mahan is a Cardiac Critical Care Pharmacist at Presbyterian Hospital. He received his BSPHarm/PharmD from the University of New Mexico (UNM). He specializes in antithrombotic therapy and cardiology. He completed a NATF fellowship at McMaster University where he externally validated the IMPACT-ILL VTE model. In 2006, he partnered with NQF/TJC for VTE quality measure testing. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor at UNM, and his research interests include reducing VTE and stroke and cardiovascular disease. He has published five book chapters and 30 peer-reviewed articles primarily of original research and delivered 300 lectures nationally and internationally. He continues to be involved in research and teaching.

Soeren Mattke, MD, DSc

Director, Center for Improving Chronic Illness Care and Research Professor of Economics,
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Soeren Mattke is an expert in measure development for a broad range of healthcare applications. He was the founding director of the OECD Healthcare Quality Indicators Project that— now in its 12th year—develops and publishes indicators for the benchmarking of healthcare systems. He was one of the developers of the original CMS Measures Management System (the “Blueprint”) that standardizes processes and procedures for federal development activities. On numerous other projects, Dr. Mattke has worked on clinical and patient-reported measures for disease management programs, workplace productivity, stroke care, and nursing-sensitive adverse events. He was RAND’s Project Director for a seven-year project to develop medication management measures for CMS that led to several NQF submissions and endorsements, and recently led successful NQF submissions, one in oncology and one in substance use. Dr. Mattke served as adviser to several international organizations, such as the OECD, the European Commission and the World Economic Forum. Dr. Mattke worked at RAND, the OECD in Paris, in the healthcare practice of Bain & Company in Boston, at Abt Associates, a policy consulting firm in Cambridge, MA, and at Harvard University. He trained as an internist and cardiologist at the University of Munich. Dr. Mattke received his MD at the University of Munich and his DSc in health policy at Harvard University.

Gwen Mayes, JD, MMSc

Patient Story Coach/Writer
Annapolis, Maryland

Gwen Mayes has a master's in medical science in advanced respiratory care and worked as physician assistant for a heart transplant program. She has experience working in patient advocacy, government affairs, and regulatory roles for medical device and pharmaceutical industries. Gwen is a lawyer and well versed in regulatory language through the patient lens. She frequently speaks and writes on patient advocacy and was the former executive vice president of Public Policy for the National Patient Advocate Foundation during enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Gwen has an interest in healthcare disparities having worked in inner city hospitals with indigent care. Gwen has lived with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy since birth and is a national champion for WomenHeart.

Kristi Mitchell, MPH

Senior Vice President, Avalere Health, LLC
Washington, District of Columbia

Ms. Mitchell is a Senior Vice President at Avalere Health, overseeing its evidence translation and implementation practice. She leads efforts to support the use of data for strategic decision making across multiple sectors and to develop strategic partnerships for quality measure development. As the Chief Science Officer for the American College of Cardiology (ACC), she provided methodological and scientific direction for multiple ACC initiatives including the National Cardiovascular Data Registry. She also led the development of quality metrics, performance measures, and participant feedback reports using data from the registry.

Jason Spangler, MD, MPH, FACPM

Executive Director, Medical Policy, Amgen, Inc.
Washington, District of Columbia

Dr. Spangler is Executive Director, Medical Policy at Amgen, Inc. He serves as the lead in representing the company on healthcare quality issues and on clinical matters in engagement with federal payer agencies in the United States. Prior to Amgen, Dr. Spangler was the chief medical officer at Partnership for Prevention—a national, nonprofit organization providing medical and public health expertise on program activities and policy development. He is a member of the NQF Population Health Steering Committee and the NCQA Cardiovascular Measurement Advisory Panel and has been a reviewer for the AHRQ Prevention/Care Management Technical Assistance Center.

Susan Strong

President, Board of Directors, Heart Value Voice
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Susan Strong is an inspirational patient advocate who is passionate about shared decision making and patient-centered outcomes. She was diagnosed with severe aortic stenosis as a late effect of radiation treatment, where she had a successful TAVR procedure in November 2014. A long-term survivor of Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosed when she was only 17, she regularly provides support and information to patients across the U.S. who are facing heart valve and other complications. In addition to serving as a Heart Valve Ambassador for the American Heart Association, she participated for two years in the PCORI Heart Valve working group led by Matthew Brennan, MD. She is a contributing patient author on the study "Transcatheter Versus Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement," published in the *JACC* in July 2017. She is the President of the Heart Value Voice (HVV), a patient advocacy, nonprofit organization, to provide

patients with a united voice to improve health for people living with heart valve disease. The mission of HVV is to advocate for early detection, meaningful support, and timely access to appropriate treatment for all people affected by heart valve disease.

Mladen Vidovich, MD

Professor of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chief of Cardiology,
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois

Mladen Vidovich is an Interventional Cardiologist, Associate Professor of Medicine at University of Illinois, and Chief of Cardiology at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago. His research focus is reduction in bleeding complications, hospitalization, and equipment cost with radial angiography and coronary intervention. His other interests are intracoronary imaging and intermediate lesion assessment. He has published numerous journal articles, abstracts, and book chapters on topics of Interventional Cardiology. He has developed a dedicated diagnostic cardiology catheter that is in current use. He lectures extensively on national and international conferences.

David Walsworth, MD, FAAFP

Department of Family Medicine, Michigan State University
East Lansing MI

David Walsworth, MD, FAAFP is a family physician with over two decades of experience in quality improvement, medical direction, and advocacy at the state and national levels. He is an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Michigan State University (MSU), associate chair for clinical affairs, and medical director of the Family Health Center, a joint practice of the College of Human Medicine, Department of Family Medicine and the College of Nursing. Dr. Walsworth chairs the American Academy of Family Physicians Chronic Conditions Annual Live Course and the Family Medicine Foundation of Michigan Professional Development Committee. He has an extensive history of involvement in health systems quality services, including Patient-Centered Medical Home, Medicare CPC+, and Medicaid's Statewide Innovation Model for Michigan.

Dr. Walsworth chairs the MSU HealthTeam Quality Council and has served on multiple committees including EMR Advisory, Credentials and Privileges, Integrated Primary Care, Peer Review, CME, and Geriatrics. He is currently planning a Cardiology Intersession course for Michigan State University. He has presented clinical education sessions on atrial fibrillation, anticoagulant therapy, diabetes, modifiable risk factors, chronic pain, obstetrics, choosing wisely, advanced life support, chronic illness, and numerous other topics and has conducted research on primary care practice approaches to improve management of patients with diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia. He spent several years representing the Michigan State Medical Society on the Physicians Consortium for Performance Improvement.

Dr. Walsworth was formerly vice chief of Family Medicine at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, associate program director of the Family Medicine Residency Program, and unit medical director of their Healthcare Center in Westland. He received his medical degree at Wayne State University School of Medicine, completed his family practice residency at Oakwood Hospital Medical Center, Dearborn, and completed a fellowship in academic leadership from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Office of Medical Education Research and Development. He serves on the board of directors for both the Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians.

Daniel Waxman, MD, PhD, FACC

Health Policy Researcher at RAND, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
Los Angeles, California

Daniel A. Waxman is an Associate Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine, UCLA, and a Health Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation. Dr. Waxman is board-certified in cardiology and emergency medicine, and he earned a PhD in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School. At RAND, he has worked on several projects focused on quality measurement, in the realms of measure development, implementation, and evaluation. He has interest/expertise considering real-world implementation issues (e.g., gaming and unintended consequences), exploring process/outcome relationships, and on acute-care topics at the nexus of cardiology and emergency medicine.