



Scientific Methods Panel

METHODS PANEL CHAIRS

David Cella, PhD

Professor, Northwestern University
Chicago, IL

David Cella is the Ralph Seal Paffenbarger Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Social Sciences at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He studies questions regarding quality of life measurement in clinical practice and research. He has published more than 700 peer-reviewed articles, most of which focus on the unique contribution that the patient perspective has upon the evaluation of health and health care. Dr. Cella has studied quality of life as a scientific enterprise, bringing the voice of the patient into consideration of value and opportunities for improvement. Dr. Cella developed and is continually refining the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT) Measurement System for outcome evaluation in patients with chronic medical conditions. He was steering committee chair and principal investigator of the statistical coordinating center for the NIH Roadmap Initiative to build a Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS). Dr. Cella is a recipient of the International Society for Quality of Life Research President's Award (2008), the Health Assessment Laboratory/Medical Outcomes Trust John Ware and Alvin Tarlov Career Achievement Award (2014), and the National Academy of Medicine (Institute of Medicine) Gustav O. Lienhard Award (2016).

David Nerenz, PhD

Director, Center for Health Policy and Health Services Research, Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, MI

David R. Nerenz, Ph.D., is Director of the Center for Health Policy and Health Services Research at Henry Ford Health System. He is also Director of Outcomes Research for the Neuroscience Institute, and Vice-Chair for Research of the Department of Neurosurgery at Henry Ford Hospital. He recently served as the Chair of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020, Chair of the IOM Subcommittee on Standardized Collection of Race/Ethnicity Data for Healthcare Quality Improvement, and Co-Chair of the National Quality Forum's SES Risk Adjustment Expert Panel.

METHODS PANEL MEMBERS

J. Matt Austin, PhD

Assistant Professor, Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at Johns Hopkins Medicine
Baltimore, MD

Dr. Matt Austin is an Assistant Professor at the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at Johns Hopkins Medicine. His research focuses on performance measures in healthcare and their use for improvement. In his role, he provides strategic guidance to The Leapfrog Group on performance measures for their Hospital Survey and Hospital Safety Grade. Within Johns Hopkins Medicine, Dr. Austin guides the development of safety and quality dashboards and co-leads efforts to identify possible disparities in the equity of care delivered to patients. Dr. Austin earned his Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Bijan Borah, MSc, PhD

Associate Professor, Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

Bijan J Borah, MSc, PhD is a health economist and health services researcher at Mayo Clinic with research focus in comparative effectiveness research. He is an expert in observational data methods. He helped develop Mayo Clinic Cost Data Warehouse that converts internal costs into standardized costs, enabling researchers conduct cost analysis for Mayo cohorts. His recent research includes measuring medication adherence in patients with multiple chronic conditions, identifying patients for interventions aimed at improving medication adherence. He serves on advisory committees on medication adherence measurement panel at International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research and AcademyHealth Health Economics Interest Group.

John Bott, MBA, MSSW

Manager, Healthcare Ratings, Consumer Reports
Yonkers, NY

John Bott, MBA, MSSW, works with Consumer Reports in the Health Ratings Center. His responsibilities are managing and executing the development of healthcare service ratings. Prior to Consumer Reports, John worked in the public and nonprofit private sectors. Public sector work includes AHRQ, where he led maintaining and improving the AHRQ QIs and examined enhancements to measures using additional clinical data.

In the non-profit sector, he worked with IPRO, New York, examining and improving innovative methodologies to measure performance of an array of providers. John also worked at The Alliance, Wisconsin, managing quality and cost measurement projects for accountability.

Lacy Fabian, PhD

Lead Healthcare Evaluation Specialist, The MITRE Corporation
McLean, VA

Lacy Fabian, PhD is a research psychologist focused on performance measurement and evaluation for healthcare quality improvement at The MITRE Corporation. She specializes in methods and identifying opportunities for process improvement in quality reporting programs. For over 10

years she's supported federal programs using quality measures within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Her experience includes development of measures, implementation and maintenance of a core measure set of 65+ measures, and strategic support during annual preparations for the Measures Under Consideration list and Measure Applications Partnership within the National Quality Forum.

Marybeth Farquhar, PhD, MSN, RN

Vice President, Quality, Research & Measurement, URAC
Washington, DC

Marybeth Farquhar is the Vice President of Quality, Research & Measurement at URAC. She is responsible for URAC's quality, measurement, and research agenda. Dr. Farquhar has over 30 years' experience in nursing, research, and quality measurement and led the development of standards on measures and measure reporting for URAC's Accreditation programs. She serves as an expert on measure development and analysis on several technical expert panels. Dr. Farquhar was Vice President of Performance Measurement at the NQF and responsible for strategic oversight of the CDP. She also led key projects of the CAHPS team and the AHRQ's Quality Indicators Initiative.

Jeffrey Geppert, EdM, JD

Senior Research Leader, Battelle Memorial Institute
Columbus, OH

Jeffrey J. Geppert is a Senior Research Leader at Battelle Memorial Institute. Mr. Geppert has 24 years of experience in performance measurement in the fields of health care and education, supporting federal, state and commercial organizations in the development, validation and effective use of data on quality. Currently he leads Battelle solutions in healthcare quality improvement. Mr. Geppert served for ten years as the Project Director of the Support for Quality Indicators contract with Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and for eleven years as an analyst with the Healthcare Economics program at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Paul Gerrard, BS, MD

Associate Medical Director Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New England Rehabilitation Hospitals of Portland (HealthSouth, Inc.)
Birmingham, AL

Dr. Gerrard is a practicing physiatrist with a strong academic background and is well-published in peer reviewed journals. He also brings experience in significant clinical research with understanding of the technical aspects of methodology and evaluation of results. His primary academic focus has been in psychometrics, which focuses on outcome measure development and testing (i.e. establishing instrument reliability and validity), including the use item response theory. Item response theory is the general statistical approach that was used the validation of measures like the CARE Tool and PROMIS. Dr. Gerrard also co-published a peer-reviewed statistics book that provided his own code to demonstrate computational methods for estimating Rasch model parameters, reliability coefficients, and parameters in both confirmatory and exploratory factor analysis.

Dr. Gerrard also is published on research on validity and reliability of current outcome measures. As a practicing physician, he is able to apply findings of validation and reliability studies to real

patients. His assessments focus on whether the population of interest in a particular outcome validation study is clinically reflective of the population to which that outcome measure is being proposed for use.

Other professional leadership roles include active participation in the American Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Work as a team member piloting clinical decision support tools built into the electronic medical record. Dr. Gerrard also is the Associate Medical Director of a ninety-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit, which is a joint venture partnership between HealthSouth, Inc., a company specializing in post-acute care and a nonprofit tertiary care hospital.

Laurent Glance, MD

Professor and Vice-Chair for Research, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
Rochester, NY

Dr. Laurent Glance is a professor with tenure and Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University Of Rochester School Of Medicine. Dr. Glance has an adjunct appointment as a Senior Scientist at RAND Health. He obtained his M.D. at Cornell and undergraduate degree at Dartmouth. Dr. Glance is a cardiac anesthesiologist, trained at New York-Presbyterian Hospital (Cornell) for residency and Memorial Sloan-Kettering for critical care medicine. His research has been funded by AHRQ, and has focused on quality measurement and risk-adjustment.

Stephen Horner, RN, BSN, MBA

Vice President Clinical Analytics, HCA, Inc.
Nashville, TN

Steve Horner launched his healthcare career as a critical care nurse before transitioning into the measurement and improvement arena when he was hired by a CMS contractor. He later joined The Toledo Hospital, a tertiary care medical center as director of quality management department. During the past 23 years he has worked at HCA, the nation's largest hospital company, leading efforts to improve care through measurement and analytics. Steve earned his BSN from the University of Toledo and MBA from Vanderbilt University. He has lectured at both universities and is a former adjunct faculty member at Tennessee State University.

Sherrie Kaplan, PhD, MPH

Professor of Medicine, Vice Chancellor for Healthcare Measurement and Evaluation, UC Irvine
School of Medicine
Irvine, CA

Dr. Sherrie Kaplan is well known for her work in the development of measures of the quality of technical and interpersonal care, health status and quality of life, and heterogeneity of treatment effects, particularly for vulnerable populations. Her current research includes the use of animated 'cartoon' images to obtain health-related functional status information from children. Her work on the application of psychometric techniques to the assessment of performance of varying levels of the healthcare system, from healthcare organizations to individual physicians, is widely cited. She currently heads the clinical research training program at UCI School of Medicine.

Joseph Kunisch, PhD, RN-BC, CPHQ

Enterprise Director of Clinical Quality Informatics, Memorial Hermann Health System Houston, TX

Dr. Kunisch is a graduate of the University of Colorado Denver holding a Master's Degree in Clinical Informatics and a PhD in Health Information Technology. Dr. Kunisch also serves as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Texas School Of Biomedical Informatics. He has over 10 years of experience in the field of clinical informatics serving in multiple. Currently, Dr. Kunisch serves in the role of Enterprise Director for Clinical Quality Informatics for Regulatory Performance. In this role, he leads the department responsible for all quality related regulatory reporting including the electronic clinical quality measures for 14 hospitals.

Paul Kurlansky, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery / Associate Director, Center for Innovation and Outcomes Research / Director of Research, Recruitment and CQI, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons / Columbia HeartSource
New York, NY

Paul A. Kurlansky, MD received his baccalaureate degree (cum laude) from Harvard University and received his medical degree from Tufts University Medical School. He completed his post-graduate training at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center in New York. Dr. Kurlansky is boarded in Surgery, Thoracic surgery and with the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review.

Dr. Kurlansky is the former Director of Research at the Florida Heart Research Institute in Miami, Florida. In 2003, he joined the Columbia HeartSource team as the Director of Research, Recruitment and Continuous Quality Improvement. An Associate Professor of Surgery at Columbia, Dr. Kurlansky is the Associate Director for the Center of Innovation and Outcomes Research. He serves on the Quality Measurement Task Force of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons as well as on the editorial board of several peer review journals, and has published extensively on cardiac surgery and quality outcomes.

Zhenqiu Lin, PhD

Director of Data Management and Analytics, Yale-New Haven Hospital
New Haven, CT

Zhenqiu Lin, PhD is the director of Data Management & Analytics at Yale New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, where he leads a team of 20 data scientists. He received his PhD degree in Experimental Psychology from Stony Brook University. He has expertise in quantitative methods and psychometrics. He has 20 years of experience in applying statistical methods to clinical and health service research through cross-disciplinary collaborations. He has been focusing on developing outcomes measures in the past 10 years and has led the development of many outcomes measures that have been endorsed by NQF.

Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

Dr. Joynt Maddox is a cardiologist and an Assistant Professor at Washington University School of Medicine. She is a health services and health policy researcher whose specific research interests

include: 1) Improving the measurement of the quality and efficiency of physicians, hospitals and health systems; 2) Understanding the impact of policy interventions on health care, with a focus on value-based and alternative payment models; and 3) Reducing disparities in care, with a focus on vulnerable populations including racial and ethnic minorities, individuals living in poverty, individuals with disabilities, frail elders, and those in rural areas.

Jack Needleman, PhD

Professor, University of California Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

Jack Needleman, PhD, Professor of Health Policy and Management, UCLA School of Public Health. A health economist, he has conducted research examining the efficiency of nonprofit and for-profit hospitals and designed or evaluated hospital, physician and nursing home payment systems. Measures he helped develop have been adopted by NQF, AHRQ and Medicare. Dr. Needleman has served on the Steering Committees for two NQF Resource Use Measures committees and TAC for the NQF Hospital Nursing Performance Measure committee. He has PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Eugene Nuccio, PhD

Assistant Professor, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, CO

Eugene J. Nuccio, PhD (Education Psychology) is expert in program/system evaluation, statistical analysis, and quality measurement. Dr. Nuccio's designed and conducted of the Home Health Pay-for-Performance Demonstration Evaluation that utilized both quantitative (analysis of quality measures and agency survey responses) and qualitative (on-site focus groups) components. His experience includes measurement, instrument design, and risk adjustment of outcomes using high-level multivariate (OLS and logistic regression) methods. Dr. Nuccio's work includes empirical and theoretical contributions in the development of new risk adjustment approaches including aggregation of episodic information by agency, model development methodology, and representation of ordinal data in models.

Jennifer Perloff, PhD

Scientist and Deputy Director at the Institute of Healthcare Systems, Brandeis University
Waltham, MA

Jennifer Perloff, Ph.D. is a Scientist and Deputy Director at the Institute for Healthcare Systems at Brandeis University. Dr. Perloff has over 15 years of experience in evaluation and health services research. Recent work includes a CMMI funded project to develop an episode grouper for Medicare (EGM), with special emphasis on attribution, risk adjustment and provider profiling. Dr. Perloff also works in bundled payment, helping hospitals and insurance companies understand the risk and reliability of individual condition and treatment bundles. Finally, Dr. Perloff works on the cost, quality and efficiency of nurse practitioner delivered primary care, including an on-going project on multiple-sclerosis.

Sam Simon, PhD

Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research
Cambridge, MA

Sam Simon, Ph.D., is a senior researcher at Mathematica Policy Research. Dr. Simon has nearly 20 years of experience conducting and leading quality measure psychometric work, with a recent emphasis on eQMs.

Dr. Simon is currently Principal Investigator for a CMS-funded project to develop, specify, test and maintain eQMs for clinicians participating in CMS's Quality Payment Program. Under this project, Dr. Simon led the evaluation of feasibility, reliability and validity for over 20 new eQMs, including PRO-PMs and a composite eQM. His evaluation work has been published in The Gerontologist, Journal of the American Medical Directors Association and Military Medicine.

Michael Stoto, PhD

Professor of Health Systems Administration and Population Health, Georgetown University
Washington, DC

Michael Stoto is a Professor of Health Systems Administration and Population Health at Georgetown University as well as an Adjunct Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. A statistician, epidemiologist, and health services researcher, Dr. Stoto's research includes methodological topics in epidemiology and statistics including research synthesis/meta-analysis and other analytical methods for comparative effectiveness research, population health assessment, evaluation methods, and performance measurement. Dr. Stoto has worked extensively with AcademyHealth on methods for analyzing existing electronic health data for comparative effectiveness research and quality improvement, and is a senior researcher with the MedStar Health Research Institute.

Christie Teigland, PhD

Vice President, Advanced Analytics, Avalere Health
Washington, DC

Dr. Teigland is Vice President of Advanced Analytics at Avalere Health. She leads a team of 15 research professionals in the design and implementation of studies focused on performance measure development and evaluation, including testing for feasibility, reliability and validity. She specialized in quality measurement as Director of Research at Leading Age New York, leading large grant funded projects including a multi-year study to develop innovative solutions to advance the use of data-driven decision making to measure, track and improve health outcomes. She received her PhD and MA in Economics/Econometric Forecasting from the University of New York at Albany.

Ronald Walters, MD, MBA, MHA, MS

Assoc VP Medical Ops Informatics, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

Ron Walters is an associate vice president of medical operations and informatics at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in The Texas Medical Center, applying more than 30 years of experience and knowledge at MD Anderson. Dr. Walters is a breast medical oncologist and is responsible for the professional aspects of Clinical Operations including Medical Informatics, the

Tumor Registry, the Transfer Center, Managed Care Programs, Uncompensated Charity Care, Clinical Safety and Effectiveness and the Physicians Network. He serves on multiple institutional committees striving for improvements in patient care, research and our support systems. Dr. Walters pursued his MBA at the University of Houston. When he realized it didn't cover enough of the health care administration aspects, he went for a Masters degree too. It was in business school where he really learned to appreciate that a different perspective was obtained if you had some hands-on experience in the profession. He completed a Masters program in the management of computing and information systems at Houston Baptist University. Dr. Walters considers himself a productive member of a great team with great leadership at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Susan White, PhD, RHIA, CHDA

Administrator - Analytics, The James Cancer Hospital at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Columbus, OH

Susan White, PhD, RHIA, CHDA, is the Administrator of Analytics at The James Cancer Hospital - OSUWMC and an Associate Professor in the HIMS Division at The Ohio State University. Dr. White is responsible for the design and implementation of alternative payment models for cancer as well as serving as the administrator for the Cancer Program Analytics Department. In her academic role, she teaches classes in statistics, data analytics, healthcare finance, and computer applications. Dr. White has published text books and articles covering outcomes assessment, risk adjustment, hospital benchmarking, and claims data mining. Dr. White received her PhD in Statistics from The Ohio State University.