

# NQF

## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

### End Stage Renal Disease Steering Committee Member Roster

**Constance Anderson, BSN, MBA**  
Vice President of Clinical Operations  
Northwest Kidney Centers

Constance Anderson is vice president of clinical operations for Northwest Kidney Centers. Ms. Anderson has more than 35 years of experience in renal care and currently manages 400 staff that provides dialysis services in centers and homes. In her current role, she works closely with staff and nephrologists on quality measurement and has significant expertise in implementation and feasibility matters related to ESRD performance measurement. Ms. Anderson is a member of the Kidney Care Partners Quality Committee and served as Northwest Kidney Centers' liaison during testing of the Kidney Care Quality Alliance's performance measures.

**Sue Barnes, RN, BSN, CIC**  
National Leader, Infection Prevention and Control  
Kaiser Permanente National Office

Sue Barnes is the national leader for infection prevention for Kaiser Permanente's (KP) 8 regions, 35 hospitals, and 431 medical offices. Ms. Barnes has been in infection prevention since 1989. She participated in development of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) guides *Elimination of Catheter-Related Blood Stream Infections* and *Elimination of Infections in Hemodialysis*, and training in infection prevention in ambulatory care. Ms. Barnes's speaking engagements include the International Decennial Conference, the APIC Futures Summit, the San Francisco Bay Area APIC Chapter, national KP videoconferences, and the Emergency Care Research Institute. She has made numerous presentations and is published nationally. Ms. Barnes is currently on the National APIC Board of Directors.

**Jeffrey Berns, MD**  
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Jeffrey Berns is professor of medicine and pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and associate chief of Penn's renal-electrolyte and hypertension division. Dr. Berns' clinical and research interests are in the areas of chronic kidney disease, renal pharmacology, and critical care nephrology. He is the National Kidney Foundations Kidney Disease Outcomes

Quality Initiative's vice-chair for clinical practice guidelines and commentaries, a member of the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes anemia workgroup, and a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine nephrology subspecialty board. Dr. Berns received his medical degree and completed residency training in internal medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and then completed his fellowship in nephrology at Yale University.

**Peter Crooks, MD**

Associate Medical Director for Operations  
Southern California Permanente Medical Group

In addition to his direct patient care activities at Kaiser Permanente, Peter Crooks has been interested in improving outcomes for patients with kidney disease. Dr. Crooks served as physician director for the Southern California Kaiser Permanente Renal Program from 1997 until 2009. Before that, he was medical director for the Medicare ESRD Managed Care Demonstration project and medical director of Optimal Renal Care, a national renal disease management company, now merged with Renaissance Health Care, where he served on its Medical Advisory Board. He was a member of the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative advisory board and served as co-chair of the National Quality Forum Steering Committee to develop National Voluntary Consensus Standards for End-Stage Renal Disease. He is currently associate medical director for operations at the Southern California Permanente Medical Group and senior consultant to its renal business group.

**Barbara Fivush, MD**

Division Chief of Pediatric Nephrology and Professor of Pediatrics  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Barbara Fivush's research and clinical interest have been dominated by pediatric chronic kidney disease (CKD). She has been instrumental in setting vaccination guidelines for children with CKD. She has a strong interest in and has worked over the last decade to improve outcomes for these patients. She was chair of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Clinical Performance Measures pediatric committee from 2000-2006. She is the pediatric Co-chair of a Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement measure workgroup on pediatric End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), and has previously developed two pediatric ESRD measures, which are endorsed by Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance. Dr Fivush also is a member of American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Jerry Jackson, MD**

Nephrologist  
Nephrology Associates, PC

Jerry Jackson has over 35 years of experience as a nephrologist with specific expertise in vascular access-related infections, quality improvement, hemodialysis facility management and patient outcomes, and chronic kidney disease management. Dr. Jackson serves as medical

director for two hemodialysis clinics and a vascular access center. He also works as an interventional nephrologist. For the past 15 years, he has served as a volunteer with Network 8 and chairs the Medical Review Board. Dr. Jackson's work with Network 8 provided insight into the benefit of performance measurement in dialysis facilities and how that data can be used in quality improvement efforts.

**Frederick Kaskel, MD, PhD**

Professor & Vice Chair of Pediatrics and Director of Albert Einstein College of Medicine Children's Hospital at Montefiore

Frederick Kaskel has provided a leadership role in pediatric nephrology at the regional, national, and international levels, which has afforded him the opportunity to represent both academic and patient-oriented communities. Dr. Kaskel's relationship with IPRO End Stage Renal Disease of New York Medical Advisory Board, the Food and Drug Association Cardiovascular and Renal Advisory Committee, the Kidney and Urology Foundation of America, the Cystinosis Research Network, Nephcure Foundation, and the National Institute Health/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Disease National Kidney Disease Education Program has resulted in outreach initiatives to the communities at risk for renal disease and an appreciation of the impact of kidney treatments on their quality of life and morbidity and mortality.

**Myra Kleinpeter, MD, MPH**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Tulane University School of Medicine

Myra Kleinpeter, associate professor of clinical medicine at Tulane, serves as the peritoneal dialysis program director for Tulane/Dialysis Clinic Inc. and director of Tulane nephrology clinic at Louisiana State University Interim Public Hospital, formerly Charity Hospital. On the Board of Trustees for the American Kidney Fund, Dr. Kleinpeter serves as vice-chair of medical affairs. She is president-elect of the National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana. Dr. Kleinpeter has interests in chronic disease management, continuing medical education, quality improvement, and healthcare for underserved populations, with research activities in chronic kidney disease care management and health literacy. Dr. Kleinpeter has participated in the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health System's 2003 Physician Leadership Institute.

**Alan Kliger, MD**

Chief Medical Officer and Chief Quality Officer/Clinical Professor  
Hospital of St. Raphael/Yale University School of Medicine

Alan Kliger is the chief medical officer and chief quality officer at the Hospital of St. Raphael and clinical professor of medicine at Yale University. Dr. Kliger is an expert in the areas of stage 4 chronic kidney disease transition to ESRD, renal replacement therapy, and anemia management. He is past president of the Renal Physicians Association and Forum of ESRD

Networks. He chairs the steering committee for the National Institutes of Health frequent hemodialysis study. Dr. Kliger received the James Colangelo Award of the Connecticut National Kidney Foundation for distinguished service to the renal community and the Maureen Lundin Renalife Award from the American Association of Kidney Patients.

**Lisa Latts, MD, MSPH, MBA**

Vice President, Programs in Clinical Excellence  
WellPoint, Inc.

Lisa Latts, vice president of programs in clinical excellence for WellPoint (WLP), is responsible for directing WLP's efforts to improve the quality of care its members receive. This includes initiatives to measure and improve WLP's innovative member and state health index programs and strategies to improve the delivery of healthcare network providers, such as patient-centered medical homes and programs to address health inequities. Dr. Latts's team manages WLP's accreditation and quality compliance strategy and works together with physician organizations to improve collaboration. She is on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's National Advisory Council and the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Committee on Performance Measurement and its Standards Committee. Dr. Latts also co-chairs the National Quality Forum's Health Plan Council.

**Kathe LeBeau**

Patient Advocacy Project Manager  
Renal Support Network

Diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in 2004, Kathe LeBeau started home hemodialysis in April 2007 and is currently awaiting a transplant. Ms. LeBeau stated, "It is very important to have the patient perspective represented as these measures are reviewed going forward. As a very active patient advocate in the renal community, I would like to be part of that representation. I have been present for and participated in a number of educational and public policy forums regarding this issue and bring my personal experience as a kidney dialysis patient to the table."

**Joseph V. Nally Jr., MD**

Director, Center for Chronic Kidney Disease  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Joseph Nally is a board certified nephrologist and director of the Center for Chronic Kidney Disease at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Nally is the principal investigator of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation-Internal Review Board approved Development of a Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Registry, which involves more than 57,000 patients with CKD within the Cleveland Clinic Health System. Dr. Nally's long-term commitment to the National Kidney Foundation has evolved to his current position as vice chair of the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative Public Policy Committee.

**Andrew Narva, MD (Ex Officio)**

Director, National Kidney Disease Education Program

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health

Andrew Narva is the director of the National Kidney Disease Education Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Before joining NIH, Dr. Narva served as the chief clinical consultant for nephrology for the Indian Health Service, a public health service agency that provides healthcare to over one million American Indians and Alaska Natives. He has served as a member of the Medical Review Board of ESRD Network 15 and as chair of the Minority Outreach Committee of the National Kidney Foundation. He serves on the National Kidney Foundation Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative work group on chronic diabetes and is a member of the Eighth Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure Expert Panel. In 2002, Dr. Narva was recognized by the Indian Health Service National Council of Clinical Directors as Physician Leader of the Year and by the U.S. Public Health Service as the Clinical Physician of the Year. In 2003, he received the United States Public Health Service Distinguished Service Medal, the highest recognition awarded to commissioned officers. Dr. Narva is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology.

**Jessie Pavlinac, MS, RD, CSR, LD**

Director, Clinical Nutrition

Oregon Health & Science University

Jessie Pavlinac is director of clinical nutrition at the department of food and nutrition at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where she has practiced renal and transplant nutrition for over 30 years. Ms. Pavlinac is a senior instructor for the OHSU nutrition and dietetic program and is a board certified specialist in renal nutrition with a certificate in healthcare management. Ms. Pavlinac is immediate past president of the American Dietetic Association and a past president of the National Kidney Foundation Council on Renal Nutrition. She is a frequent presenter and author in renal nutrition and outcomes measurement and received the National Kidney Foundation Council Recognized Renal Dietitian Award.

**Robert Provenzano, MD, FACP**

Vice President of Medical Affairs, Chief Strategy Officer

DaVita

Robert Provenzano, MD, FACP, is the vice president of medical affairs and chief strategy officer at DaVita. Dr. Provenzano is a former president of Renal Physicians Association and Renal Network of the Upper Midwest. He is a practicing clinical nephrologist actively involved in direct patient care, and is widely published in peer-reviewed journals. He is well-versed in performance measurement through his oversight of a collaborative study between Renal Physicians Association and Duke University on the implementation of chronic kidney disease (CKD) standards to improve clinical processes and outcomes. This work generated a series of

publications that, to date, remain the only published articles on the implementation of CKD performance measures.

**Kristine Schonder, PharmD**

Assistant Professor  
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

Kristine Schonder is a clinical pharmacist in transplant ambulatory care and assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. Dr. Schonder's clinical practice focuses on kidney and liver transplantation and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in the post-transplant clinics at the Starzl Transplantation Institute, where she provides pharmaceutical care and patient education in conjunction with the transplant team. Her research is on the long-term consequences and outcomes associated with kidney transplantation and ESRD. Her specific areas of interest include anemia, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, osteoporosis, and medication adherence. Dr. Schonder also teaches the nephrology and transplant-related content in the PharmD curriculum at the School of Pharmacy.

**Joseph Vassalotti, MD, FASN**

Chief Medical Officer  
National Kidney Foundation

Joseph A. Vassalotti is the National Kidney Foundation's chief medical officer. Dr. Vassalotti also serves on the faculty as clinical associate professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. His main focus is on advancing chronic kidney disease (CKD) patient outcomes in the U.S. through public health and quality improvement initiatives. Dr. Vassalotti provides medical oversight of the Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP), which identifies early CKD in high risk individuals and is co-principal investigator for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's demonstration project to identify individuals at high risk for CKD in the United States.

**Ruben Velez, MD**

President/CEO  
Dallas Nephrology Associates

Ruben Velez has over 25 years of experience as a nephrologist, with specific expertise in anemia management, vascular access-related infections, and renal transplantation. Dr. Velez serves as the president and CEO of Dallas Nephrology Associates. He is the president-elect of the Renal Physicians Association and has served on National Kidney Foundation's Board of Directors since 2007. Dr. Velez also serves on the board for Methodist Hospitals of Dallas and as medical director for Waxahachie and Pleasant Run dialysis centers. Additionally, he served on the Texas Department of Health's ESRD Taskforce and is current co-chairman of the Medical Review Board of ESRD Network 14.

**Roberta Wager, RN, MSN**  
Regional Treatment Options Specialist  
Fresenius Medical Care

Roberta Wager is the regional treatment options specialist with Fresenius Medical Care and serves as the immediate past president of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP). As a patient with chronic kidney disease for the past 53 years, Ms. Wager has been on in-center hemodialysis and is currently a two-time kidney transplant recipient. She completed her bachelor of science in nursing in May 1993 and her master of science in nursing in May 2004. Since graduation from nursing school, she has practiced in the renal community as a peritoneal dialysis nurse, hemodialysis nurse, staff educator, and presently a nurse educator. She has served on several patient and professional organizations and committees promoting and advocating for renal patients. Ms. Wager serves on the Board of Directors of AAKP and is also a member of the association.

**Harvey Wells**  
Dialysis Patient Advocate

Harvey Wells, 58, first learned he had reduced kidney function when he was 18-years-old following a physical examination when attempting to enroll in the United States Navy. However, his kidneys never presented a problem for him until the age of 42, when he was suffering from very high blood pressure. Through improving his diet, Mr. Wells was able to avoid kidney failure for some time, in January 1998, needed to begin dialysis treatments to survive. By June of the same year, he received a kidney transplant from his wife that lasted for eight years before eventually failing. He began traditional dialysis at a treatment center three times a week lasting four and a half hours each session. Over the last three years Mr. Wells has travelled over 60,000 miles visiting over 150 dialysis centers in 38 states trying to increase awareness and educate renal patients and professionals on home dialysis. He states, "Helping others change their lives as dramatically as home dialysis has changed mine is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. People need to know that home care is not just an option, it is a better option and can be the solution to an otherwise debilitating illness."