



NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Driving measurable health
improvements together

Final 2023 CSAC Roster

Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC)

Committee Chairs

John Bulger, DO, MBA (Chair)

Chief Medical Officer, Geisinger Health Plan
Danville, PA

John Bulger is the chief medical officer of Geisinger Health Plan located in Danville, Pennsylvania. Dr. Bulger has been with the Geisinger Health System since completing his internal medicine residency at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in 1998. He has led clinical, operational, and education programs at Geisinger. These include director of hospital medicine, program director of the osteopathic internal medicine residency, associate chief academic officer and chief quality officer. Dr. Bulger is a recognized leader in quality and patient safety and serves on regional and national groups aimed at improving the quality of medical care.

Edward Septimus, MD (Vice-Chair)

Senior Lecturer on Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA

Dr. Ed Septimus received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in 1972. Dr. Septimus went on to complete his postgraduate training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Dr. Septimus is a board-certified physician in both internal medicine and infectious diseases. He was vice president (VP) of Research and Infectious Diseases at HCA Healthcare until 2018. Prior to HCA, Dr. Septimus was the medical director of Infectious Diseases and Occupational Health for Memorial Hermann Healthcare System. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the IDSA Antimicrobial Resistance Committee, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, and the IDSA Quality Measurement Committee. Dr. Septimus was the first recipient of the IDSA Watanakunakorn Clinician Award. In 2011, he was appointed to the Healthcare-Associated Infections/Preventable Adverse Events Advisory Panel for the Texas Department of State Health Services. Dr. Septimus was also awarded the John S Dunn Sr. Outstanding Teacher Award in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014. He serves on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Anti-Infective Drug Advisory Group and served as co-chair of NQF's Patient Safety Steering Committee until December 2021. Dr. Septimus holds a faculty position as an adjunct professor at Texas A&M College of Medicine, senior lecturer in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and a professor and distinguished senior fellow in the School of Public Health at George Mason University. He has published over 140 articles and chapters.

Committee Members

Ramsey Abdallah, MBA, CPHQ, PMP

Senior Director, Quality Management & Performance Improvement, Northwell Health
Manhasset, New York

Ramsey Abdallah is a senior population healthcare leader with experience in program development, performance improvement, project management, and data analytics. Mr. Abdallah has experience overseeing quality measure portfolios and has led measure development and implementation across large health systems. Mr. Abdallah is responsible for the governance of ambulatory quality metrics and champions process improvement to adopt electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). Mr. Abdallah is also responsible for adherence to quality reporting for the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program and Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and oversees policy adoption for both programs.

Elizabeth Albers, MD

Assistant Chief of Clinical Policy, California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS)
Sacramento, California

Dr. Elizabeth Albers is the assistant chief of Clinical Policy for California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). Dr. Albers oversees key initiatives, including clinical quality improvement, behavioral health policy development, and pharmaceutical and benefit design programs. Before joining CalPERS, Dr. Albers spent 11 years with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in California, working on performance measurement and quality improvement with Medicaid health plans. Prior to that role, Dr. Albers audited health plans and providers for contract compliance and quality of care and also worked as a forensic pathologist. Dr. Albers is a board-certified forensic and anatomic pathologist.

Dan Culica, MD, MA, PhD

Senior Program Specialist, Texas Health and Human Services Commissions
Austin, TX

Dr. Dan Culica has extensive expertise in medical care organization with consistent contribution to healthcare transformation through delivery system and payment reform. In his current position, Dr. Culica assists the statewide Medicaid Managed Care Value-Based Payment Transformation through Alternative Payment Models, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services/Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMS/CMMI) Accountable Health Communities Grant, the Hospital Quality-Based Payment Program, the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Transition Plan, and the Managed Care Organizations Quality Improvement and Efficiency Evaluation. He is the academic lead for the investigation of Neonatal Incentive Care Units Variation in Cost, Quality, and Value and the study of Return on Investment associated with the administration of the Women, Infants, and Children Program in the Medicaid mother and child population. Dr. Culica also coordinates a multidimensional partnership with the Center for Health Care Strategies in the area of health equity. His general interest in measurement science covers domains applicable to quality of care, while his areas of research included unwarranted variation in health, healthcare, utilization and costs, chronic disease management, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular surgery, trauma care organization, emergency department utilization, health system governance, and, more recently, neonatal care.

Dana Cyra, MA, CPHQ

Executive Director of Quality Improvement, Includa
Stevens Point, WI

Dana Cyra is the mother and caregiver to a daughter with an intellectual disability who has been living successfully in a small home with one roommate for a number of years. Her daughter previously lived in multiple settings, including state institutions. Ms. Cyra is the executive director of Quality Improvement for Includa, a managed care organization (MCO) providing Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in Wisconsin. Ms. Cyra is also an active participant in a statewide quality workgroup, which is composed of representatives from all Wisconsin LTSS MCOs. Ms. Cyra gained experience in research/measurement through previous work done at the University of North Dakota and Federal Bureau of Prisons. She also has 25+ years of experience in long-term care. Ms. Cyra is highly motivated to ensure there are meaningful measures of outcomes with the patient's best interest in mind.

Melissa Danforth

Vice President of Hospital Ratings, The Leapfrog Group
Washington, DC

Melissa Danforth is the vice president of Hospital Ratings at The Leapfrog Group, a Washington DC-based, not-for-profit organization representing the nation's largest employers and purchasers of health benefits working to make giant leaps forward in the safety, quality, and value of healthcare. Ms. Danforth serves as a member of The Leapfrog Group's senior leadership team, informing Leapfrog's strategic direction, engaging experts and stakeholders, and analyzing program results to engage purchasers and consumers and to drive safety and quality improvements. Ms. Danforth manages The Leapfrog Group's various performance measurement, data collection, and public reporting activities, including the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, Leapfrog Ambulatory Surgery Center Survey, Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog Value-Based Purchasing Program, and emerging ratings programs.

Karen Johnson, PhD

Director, Quality and Measurement, American Urological Association
Linthicum, Maryland

Dr. Karen Johnson specializes in improving healthcare quality through measurement science. She is the director of Quality and Measurement at the American Urological Association (AUA), where she oversees all measure development, maintenance, and quality improvement activities and supports measure implementation in AUA's quality registry. In her previous role as senior director at National Quality Forum (NQF), Dr. Johnson led endorsement and measurement science activities and helped maintain NQF's measure evaluation criteria and related processes and policies. In other previous roles, Dr. Johnson gained extensive experience in healthcare data analytics. She holds a PhD in gerontology and master's degrees in mathematical sciences/statistics and applied sociology.

Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS, FACS

Board Chairman, Health Watch USASM
Somerset, KY

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh is currently the Board Chairman of Health Watch USASM, a Kentucky-based patient advocacy and research organization. Health Watch USASM is an NQF member organization and has been designated as a "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Kavanagh is an associate editor for the *Journal of Patient Safety*. On August 20, 2014, Dr. Kavanagh became an Honor Award Nominee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease (CDC/ATSDR). He has served on the 2014, 2015,

2017, and 2018 CMS Hospital-Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program Technical Expert Panel (TEP), as well as on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Standing Working Group for Quality Indicators from 2016 to 2017. Currently, Dr. Kavanagh serves on the AHRQ for Health Care Effectiveness and Outcomes Research (HEOR) Study Section and the CMS Hospital Harm TEP. He has published 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts on healthcare policy and/or healthcare-associated infections. In addition, Dr. Kavanagh has published letters in peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Kavanagh is also a frequent contributor to the *Lexington Herald Leader* and *Courier Journal* regarding healthcare issues and has been a weekly guest on the Jack Pattie Radio Show, discussing COVID-19 health policy issues for over two years.

Rebecca Kirch, JD

Executive Vice President of Policy and Programs, National Patient Advocate Foundation
Washington, DC

Rebecca Kirch is the executive vice president of Policy and Programs for the National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF), providing strategic focus and leadership in bringing patient and caregiver voices to the forefront of health reform efforts. As a leading health policy expert and advocate in her field, Ms. Kirch is dedicated to advancing person-centered policies and practices that put people at the heart of healthcare. Prior to joining NPAF, she served 15 years with the American Cancer Society (ACS) and its advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, directing development and execution of coordinated quality of life and survivorship research, policy, and advocacy activities.

Gerri Lamb, PhD, RN, FAAN

Research Professor, Arizona State University
Tucson, Arizona

Dr. Gerri Lamb is a research professor and the founding director of the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER) at Arizona State University in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Lamb has served as co-chair of NQF's Care Coordination and Patient Experience and Function Committees since 2008 and co-chair of the Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Post-Acute Long-Term Care Committee since 2012. Most recently, Dr. Lamb co-chaired the Leveraging Electronic Health Record (EHR)-Sourced Measures to Improve Care Communication and Care Coordination Workgroup. In addition to her multiple co-chair and special workgroup roles, Dr. Lamb has served as a national content expert on care coordination for NQF.

R. Sean Morrison, MD

System Chair, Geriatrics and Palliative Care, Mount Sinai Health System
Director, National Palliative Care Research Center
New York, New York

Dr. R. Sean Morrison is the Ellen and Howard C. Katz professor and chair of the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine and system chair of Geriatrics and Palliative Care for the Mount Sinai Health System. He is also the Director of the National Palliative Care Research Center, a national organization devoted to increasing the evidence base of palliative care in the United States (U.S.). Dr. Morrison has served as co-chair of NQF's MAP Hospital Workgroup and the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee.

Kelly Nedrow, JD

Executive Director, American Federation of Teachers, Nurses and Healthcare Professionals
Washington, DC

Kelly Nedrow is the director of the American Federation of Teachers' (AFT) healthcare division and serves as lead advisor to AFT's President, Randi Weingarten, on health and healthcare issues. Ms. Nedrow's prior roles include president and CEO of The Center for Balanced Living, a facility specializing in treatment of eating disorders; CEO; Deputy Executive Officer (DEO); and a staff representative for the Ohio Nurses Association. She is also a licensed attorney whose practice has included representation of healthcare professionals on matters involving contracts and other issues. Outside of work, Ms. Nedrow is a certified instructor in yoga, meditation, and Reiki.

Jeffrey Susman, MD

Professor of Family Medicine and Senior Associate Dean
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

Dr. Jeff Susman is a professor of Family Medicine and senior associate dean at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. Dr. Susman served as dean and vice president of Health Affairs at the Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Medicine from 2010 to 2017. He graduated from Dartmouth College, served in Nebraska as the associate dean for Primary Care, and served as chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Susman served on the Steering Committee of the Cincinnati RWJ Aligning Forces for Quality and Akron Community Health Initiatives. In addition, he has received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and AHRQ in investigating primary care mental health issues. Dr. Susman has also served as chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP) Commission on Quality and Practice. Dr. Susman currently serves on NQF's Behavioral Health and Substance Use Standing Committee and CMS' TEP for Pain Management.

Adam Thompson, MPH

Practice Facilitator, Northeast-Caribbean AIDS Education and Training Centers
Mount Holly, New Jersey

Adam Thompson is a patient advocate and practice facilitator supporting health systems and communities to improve outcomes. Mr. Thompson holds a bachelor's degree in theology from Georgetown University and a master's degree in public health from the Jefferson College of Population Health. Mr. Thompson was the 2010 recipient of the Leadership in Quality Award from the Center for Quality Improvement and Innovation (CQII) and the HIV/AIDS Bureau. He has served as a member of NQF's Infectious Diseases and Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committees and also serves on the Board of Directors.