



Scientific Methods Panel, Spring 2023 – Fall 2023

Panel Chairs

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.

David Nerenz, PhD

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

David R. Nerenz, PhD, 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.

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.

Daniel Deutscher

National Director of Research and Development, Maccabi Healthcare Services Tel-Aviv, Israel

Daniel Deutscher, PT, PhD, is the physical therapy department national director of research & development, and the director of the Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) initiative for the Maccabitech research institute, both at Maccabi Healthcare Services, Israel. He is also the vice-chair of the International MDT Research Foundation, and serves on the Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO) Research Advisory Board. Daniel also serves as a research consultant for FOTO and Net Health. His main research interests are the foundation of clinical databases to promote practice-based evidence (PBE) studies using integrated electronic medical record and electronic outcomes data, to identify best practice in rehabilitation. Additionally, Daniel has been involved in numerous studies on the development and clinical implementation of PROMs.

Marybeth Farquhar, PhD, MSN, RN

Executive Vice President of Research, Quality and Scientific Affairs, American Urological Association
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sean O’Brien

Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC

Sean O’Brien, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Duke University Medical Center. Since 2005, he has served as statistical director of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) Data Warehouse and Analysis Center and as co-investigator of several grants and contracts using large registries to study comparative effectiveness and healthcare quality. Dr. O’Brien also works on the development and evaluation of quantitative methods for healthcare provider performance assessment. His research interests include risk-adjustment methodology, composite measures, and Bayesian modeling.

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.

Patrick Romano

Professor, University of California Davis
Davis, CA

Dr. Patrick Romano is Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at UC Davis and co-Editor in Chief of HSR, an official journal of AcademyHealth. He is a graduate of Princeton University, Georgetown University School of Medicine, and UC Berkeley School of Public Health. He trained in internal medicine/pediatrics at University Hospitals of Cleveland, and in health services research at UCSF. His research interests include developing and validating healthcare quality measures and using outcomes data to improve the effectiveness of healthcare. He has served on many expert committees and has led or co-led measure development efforts for numerous public agencies.

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 eCQMs. Dr. Simon is currently Principal Investigator for a CMS-funded project to develop, specify, test and maintain eCQMs 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 eCQMs, including PRO-

PMs and a composite eQIM. His evaluation work has been published in The Gerontologist, Journal of the American Medical Directors Association and Military Medicine.

Alex Sox-Harris

Associate Professor of Research, Department of Surgery, Stanford University
Menlo Park, CA

Alex Sox-Harris, PhD, MS, is an Associate Professor in the Stanford Department of Surgery, and a Research Career Scientist at the Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i) at VA Palo Alto. He is a health services researcher with programs of research focused on healthcare quality measurement, substance use disorder treatment, and treatment decisions for conditions in which surgery is a major treatment option. He has published over 195 scientific papers, has had continuous federal research funding for over 15 years, and is committed to conducting research that directly informs healthcare policy, delivery, and outcomes.

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 HIMSDivision 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.