



Patient Safety Committee

Mr. Sam Watson

Senior Vice President- MHA Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality

Sam is Senior Vice President for Patient Safety and Quality of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association and Executive Director of the MHA Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality, leading state-wide patient safety collaboratives to prevent patient harm and co-leads a state-wide initiative to reduce preventable rehospitalizations. Sam is responsible for quality and patient safety policy support for the MHA and is a liaison for the MHA with the Joint Commission, the Automotive Industry Action group Health Care Steering and serves on the board of the Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. He holds a bachelors in clinical laboratory science and a masters in administration.

James P. Bagian

Director, National Center for Patient Safety- Veterans Health Administration

Dr. James P. Bagian, M.D., P.E., was chosen as the first Director of the VA National Center for Patient Safety, which was established in 1999 and also serves as the Chief Patient Safety Officer for the VA. A NASA astronaut for 15 years, he flew two Space Shuttle missions as well as being an investigator for both the Space Shuttle Challenger and Columbia mishaps. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his work in patient safety and in 2000, Dr. Bagian was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering and in 2003, as a member of the Institute of Medicine.

Michael R. Cohen, MS, ScD, RPh, FASHP

President- Institute for Safe Medication Practices

Michael Cohen, RPh, MS, ScD, is president of The Institute for Safe Medication Practices, a non-profit healthcare organization that specializes in understanding the causes of medication errors and providing error-reduction strategies to the healthcare community, policy makers, and the public. He is editor of the textbook, Medication Errors (2007 American Pharmaceutical Association) and serves as co-editor of the ISMP Medication Safety Alert! publications that reach over 2 million health professionals and consumers in the US, as well as regulatory authorities and others in over 30 foreign countries. Dr. Cohen is a member of the Sentinel Event Advisory Group for the Joint Commission and served recently as a member of the Committee on Identifying and Preventing Medication Errors, Institute of Medicine. He is also a member of the National Quality Forum's Voluntary Consensus Standards Maintenance Committee (CSMC) on Safe Practices and serves as a consultant to the FDA Drug Safety and Risk Management Committee. In 2005 he was recognized as a MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Bruce Hall

Associate Professor of Surgery & Healthcare Management- Washington University in Saint Louis

Dr. Hall obtained his bachelors from Princeton, his PhD and MD from Duke, and trained in surgery at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (Harvard Medical School). He obtained his MBA with honors at Harvard Business School, and subsequently joined Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital in Saint Louis. He teaches health economics and policy, insurance theory, and healthcare management, and his research focuses on the evaluation of quality in healthcare. Nationally he serves as a co-chair for the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS-NSQIP), and has served the Joint Commission and NQF.

Denise Murphy, BSN, CIC, MPH, RN

Main Line Health System

Denise Murphy is the Vice President for Quality at Main Line Health System in Philadelphia, PA where she is responsible for Patient Safety and Risk Management, Clinical Performance Improvement, Infection Prevention and Control, Medical Staff Services (Peer Review and Credentialing), Regulatory Compliance, Patient Advocacy, Bioethics and Performance Measurement.

She is a past president of the Board of Directors of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. She is also a member of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Managers. She serves on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Hospital Infection Control Practice Advisory Committee and was a member of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Technical Advisory Committee (2006-2007).

Mr. David Knowlton

President & CEO- New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

Mr. Knowlton has been a leader and advisor in health issues in New Jersey and nationally since 1977. As a Principal in Knowlton and Associates, a consulting group specializing in health care policy issues, his clients have included various governmental, health care, legal, financial and business organizations. Mr. Knowlton founded and served as Executive Director of the Health Care Payers Coalition of New Jersey; a non-profit corporation representing business and labor organization who provide healthcare. He currently serves as a member of the Coalition's Board and Executive Committee and is the President and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. Founded by the Coalition, the Institute is dedicated to eliminating medical errors and improving health care quality.

Mr. Knowlton serves as the regional roll-out leader in New Jersey for the Leapfrog Group and also serves on the Leapfrog Group's Board where he heads their regional roll-out efforts nationally. He has served as a member of the National QualityForum's Steering Committees for Standardizing Cardiac Surgery Performance Measures Project, Assessing ACE Inhibitors and ARBS as Quality Measures, Hospice and Quality Care Measures, and was just appointed to the Steering Committee on Hospital Acquired Infections. Mr. Knowlton served as the Deputy Commissioner of Health for the State of New Jersey from 1987 to 1990. He also served on the Commissioner's Long Term Care Task Force and New Jersey's Health Data Advisory Committee and currently serves on the Commissioner's Quality Improvement Advisory Committee.

He is Vice Chairman of the Health Decisions, a foundation dedicated to improving the caliber of and access to quality end-of-life care.. He has been a principal presenter on the subject of, Managed Care and HIV for the Kaiser Family Foundation AIDS Symposium and has authored several published articles on health care coalitions and related health care management issues. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in education and psychology from University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and Trinity College (Hartford).

Mr. John M. Hickner, MD, MSc

Vice Chair and Professor of Family Medicine- Cleveland Clinic

John Hickner, MD, MSc, is Chair of Family Medicine and Vice Chair for Research of the Medicine Institute, Cleveland Clinic. He received an M.D. degree from Indiana University, completed family medicine training at the Medical University of South Carolina, and holds a Masters degree in clinical research design and biostatistics from the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health. He was the founding director of the American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network. Improving the quality and safety of primary care practice is his research expertise, with recent projects in access to care, and improving the safety of testing and medication management.

Dr. David Classen, MD, MS

Associate Professor of Medicine- University of Utah

David C. Classen, M.D., M.S. Dr Classen is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah and a Practicing Consultant in Infectious Diseases at The University of Utah School of Medicine in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr Classen is also a Senior Partner at CSC. He has lectured and consulted, nationally and internationally, on Patient Safety, Healthcare Quality, Clinical Process Improvement, Computer-Assisted Decision-Support, and Information System Technology in health care. He is the author or co-author of numerous scientific publications and book chapters on the use of decision-support and epidemiologic techniques to monitor and improve patient safety.

Dr. Rita Shane, PharmD, FASHP

Director, Pharmacy Services- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Rita Shane is Director of Pharmacy Services at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Assistant Dean, Clinical Pharmacy Services, at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Pharmacy. She is the 2005 recipient of the ASHP Distinguished Leadership Award. She published a National Patient Safety Foundation Research Award paper on the impact of dedicated medication nurses on errors and served as a facilitator at the Global Conference on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy, providing review of international literature on medication administration. Dr. Shane has participated as a member of the AHA Committee on Health Professions and The Joint Commission Professional Technical Advisory Committee.

Dr. William H. Maisel, MD, MPH

Director- Medical Device Safety Institute, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Dr. Maisel has a long-standing interest in patient safety initiatives. Dr. Maisel is Founder and Director of the Medical Device Safety Institute (www.medicaldevicesafety.org), an industry independent, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the safety of medical devices. He is a practicing cardiologist at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School where he directs the Quality Assurance Program in Clinical Electrophysiology and serves on the hospital's Cardiovascular Institute Quality Assurance Committee. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) in Cardiovascular Diseases and Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology. He received his Master in Public Health degree in Clinical Effectiveness from the Harvard School of Public Health and has formal training in cost effectiveness, clinical trial design, decision analysis, epidemiology and biostatistics.

Dr. Maisel has also served as a consultant to the Food and Drug Administration Center for Devices and Radiological Health since 2003 and has served as the Chair of the FDA's Post-Market and Circulatory Systems Medical Device Advisory Panels. He is a member of the Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) and has testified before the U.S. Congress on several occasions regarding the safety of medical devices. He is a member of the American Heart Association, the American Medical Association, the American College of Cardiology, and the Heart Rhythm Society.

Dr. David Mayer, MD

Associate Dean of Curriculum- University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine

David Mayer, MD

Associate Dean for Curriculum

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine

Co-Director

UIC Institute for Patient Safety Excellence

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology

Director, Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Hospital and Medical Center

Curriculum Director

UIC online Masters of Science in Patient Safety Leadership program.

Founder, Telluride Invitational Roundtable on Designing, Implementing Patient Safety Health Science Curricula

McDonald T, Helmchen LA, Smith KM, Centomani N, Gunderson A, Mayer D, Chamberlin W. The Seven Pillars of Disclosure within the Context of a Comprehensive Unexpected Adverse Event Response Process. *Journal of Quality and Safety in Healthcare*. (Accepted for publication).

Dr. Philip Mehler, MD

Chief Medical Officer- Denver Health Medical Center

Philip S. Mehler, MD, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Colorado and an Alpha Omega Alpha Graduate of its Medical School, Mehler has been at Denver Health since training there as a resident. He served as Chief of Internal Medicine from 1993-2003 and was named Associate Medical Director in 2003. In 2008, when he was promoted to Chief Medical Officer. Philip Mehler is Professor of Medicine at the CU Medical School where he holds the Glassman Endowed Chair. He has published 200 manuscripts, and has been honored numerous times as the top internist in Denver. Dr. Mehler has been listed in Best Doctors in America, Who's Who in America and has won numerous teaching and research awards. Governor Ritter appointed him to the Colorado Board of Health. The National Association of Public Hospitals recognized him in 2009, with their "Chair Award." In 2009, he was also named the recipient of the Silver & Gold Award, the highest honor bestowed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine, on an alumnus.

FAAN is a national leader who is knowledgeable about the challenges to safety that are inherent in health care settings today. Throughout her career she led the transformation of knowledge and science of safety practices, safety cultures into education and service settings in acute care hospitals for children and adults. She holds an appointment at the University of Pennsylvania that encompasses education, research and practice. She is responsible for creating safer environments in which patient care can be delivered. She has generated and applied knowledge about safe practices in a variety of ways over the course of her career. Dr. Barnsteiner was the co-developer of the American Association of Critical Care Nursing Outcome Standards for Nursing Practice, the first set of outcome standards developed for nursing. She wrote the chapter on medication reconciliation in a recently AHRQ Patient Safety and Quality book and published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals on safety and quality.

In addition to improving nursing practice in the areas of patient safety and quality, Dr. Barnsteiner has participated in a number of interprofessional activities aimed at promoting this work through interdisciplinary collaboration. She participated in an interprofessional collaborative for the past 15 years, sponsored by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and Dartmouth Medical School held at Dartmouth each summer, the purpose of which is to promote greater interprofessional collaboration in quality/safety work. As a professor, she teaches the course Foundations of Patient Safety, a cross listed course open to undergraduate and graduate students on the science of patient safety, an understanding of the current challenges in healthcare settings and how to design safe practices. She serves as member of The Joint Commission, Sentinel Event Advisory Group and the sole nurse consulting with the American Board of Internal Medicine on the development of competencies and milestones for resident physician education related to quality and safety and professionalism.

Robert Bunting

Clinical Research Manager- WellPoint

Mr. Bunting currently serves as a clinical research manager for WellPoint's Programs in Clinical Excellence. In this capacity, he leads WellPoint's multidisciplinary Patient Safety Committee and is responsible for the oversight of activities such as persistent medication management and our approach to hospital-acquired conditions and never events. He was the primary author of WellPoint's Preventable Adverse Events White Paper, and serves as WellPoint's delegate to the safety and never events committees of the National Business Coalition on Health and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

Before joining WellPoint, Mr. Bunting served as the director of quality and risk management for Columbus Regional Healthcare System in Georgia where he was responsible for the development, measurement, and management of all system-wide quality improvement and risk management functions. During this period, Mr. Bunting taught a graduate course entitled "Risk Management in Health Service Delivery" at Columbus State University and served as the president of the Georgia Society for Healthcare Risk Management. Through his work with the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, Mr. Bunting authored the first three editions of the Society's "A Study Guide for the Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management (CPHRM) Examination." Mr. Bunting also serves on the American Hospital Association Certification Center's CPHRM Certification Program Committee. He has co-authored "A Comprehensive Guide to Managing Never Events and Hospital-Acquired Conditions" and is pursuing his PhD in Business Administration.

Mr. Dan Ford, MBA

Vice President- Furst Group

Dan Ford developed a deep passion for patient safety because of medical errors experienced by his first wife. Diane suffered a morphine-induced respiratory arrest following a hysterectomy. She has a permanent short-term memory loss and resides in an independent living facility. Dan is a Vice President with Furst Group, a health care executive search firm. He conducts searches for CEO's and other executives for hospitals and oversees their Phoenix, AZ office. He serves on patient safety and quality committees and gives presentations across the country. Dan has an MBA in Health Care Administration and Policy from the University of Chicago.

Helen Haskell, MA

President- Mothers Against Medical Error

Helen Haskell is president of the grassroots patient safety advocacy group Mothers Against Medical Error. Helen entered the field of patient safety as a result of the medical error death of her young son Lewis in November, 2000. She has been involved in the passage of significant patient safety legislation in her home state of South Carolina, and works both nationally and locally to provide the consumer perspective on a broad range of patient safety and quality improvement initiatives including hospital-acquired infection, rapid response teams, full disclosure of medical error, medical education, and patient empowerment, among others.

Dr. Robert L. Wears, MD, MS, FACEP

Professor- University of Florida Health Science Center

As a board-certified emergency physician and a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), Dr. Wears has been involved in multiple patient safety improvement and research efforts, including serving on the ACEPs Patient Safety Task Force, chairing the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine's (SAEM) Patients Safety Task Force, and participating in ACEP's Clinical Policies Committee. In addition, he has participated in or directed several patient safety research efforts, funded by the Army Research Laboratory, the National Patient Safety Foundation, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). He has been active in mentorship, having guided successful developing investigators / implementors for the Emergency Medicine Patient Safety Foundation and for AHRQ K awards.

Dr. Wears served on the NPSF Research Committee for 7 years, including 2 as Chair, is a member of the board of the Emergency Medicine Patient Safety Foundation, and currently serves on review panels for safety related grants for AHRQ and the UK Research Council. Most recently he served on three different bodies concerned with aspects of transitions in care: ACEP's Quality Improvement and Patient Safety task force to produce guidelines for safer shift changes; the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation / American College of Physicians/ Society of Hospital Medicine / Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® (PCPI) Care Transitions Work Group, doing similar work on guideline and measure development; and as the SAEM representative in the development of the ACP / SGIM / SHM Consensus Statement on Transitions in Care.

He has written and spoken both nationally and internationally on multiple topics related to safety and has co-edited Patient Safety in Emergency Medicine, the first textbook on patient safety in emergency care.

Dr. Arjun D. Sharma, M.D.

Vice President, Patient Safety- Boston Scientific Corporation, CRM

Dr. Sharma is a cardiac electrophysiologist, and has 25 years of experience in academic (Canada) and private practice medicine (California). He has published over 300 articles and lectured internationally. During the last 25 years Dr. Sharma has worked as an external consultant, advisor, and investigator to biomedical companies and he is the Vice president of Patient Safety at Boston Scientific Corporation CRM in St. Paul. His current activities focus around pacemaker and ICD safety and quality, and thus the National Quality Forum Patient Safety is of prime interest and Dr. Sharma will be able to make himself available to travel to meetings.

Ms. Nancy Leveille, MS, RN

Senior Director, Member Operational Support- New York State Health Facilities Association

Ms. Nancy Leveille is the Senior Director for Member Operational Support at the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA), a trade association that services over 260 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) throughout New York State (NYS). In this position, she provides leadership on policy and operations; direction for the clinical, quality, education and operational services to its members and advocacy for elders. She is also the primary developer and program coordinator of the Long Term Care Leadership Institute for the Foundation of Quality Care, Inc., an affiliate of NYSHFA. In this role, she created and is implementing grant sponsored leadership development educational courses. Over 800 nurses and administrators, who work in NYS SNF, have successfully completed courses since 2002. Ms. Leveille serves on a number of state boards and committees. She served on NYS Quality Improvement Organization's Steering Committee for several years and currently is a lead on the Empire Quality Partnership, the Local Area Network for Excellence, as part of the National Advancing Excellence Campaign. Ms. Leveille is a Registered Nurse with over 30 years of experience in clinical and administrative roles throughout the health care continuum. She received her Masters of Science in Nursing Administration from Russell Sage College and her Bachelor of Science degree from Niagara University.

Dr. Richard E. Hawkins, MD, FACP

Senior Vice President for Professional and Scientific Affairs- American Board of Medical Specialties

Dr. Richard E. Hawkins joined the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in February 2009 as senior vice president for professional and scientific affairs. He is responsible for providing leadership to ABMS and its various committees to help promote the science of ABMS Maintenance of Certification® and certification in context of advancing physician assessment programs. Dr. Hawkins has more than 20 years of experience working on various initiatives to assess and evaluate physician quality and competency. Prior to assuming his current position with ABMS, Dr. Hawkins was the vice president for assessment programs at the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) in Philadelphia. Dr. Hawkins received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and completed his residency and internship at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va. He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in internal medicine with a subspecialty in infectious disease.