



# NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Driving measurable health  
improvements together

## Final Roster

### Fall 2022 Review Cycle – Cardiovascular

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#### Committee Chairs

##### **Thomas Kottke, MD, MSPH**

Medical Director for Well-Being, HealthPartners  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Thomas E. Kottke is the Medical Director for Well-Being at HealthPartners health plan, a HealthPartners Medical Group emeritus cardiologist, an epidemiologist, and a health services researcher at the HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research in Minneapolis. He holds the academic rank of Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. His primary professional goals are the following: (1) to understand how to help individuals increase well-being, delay the onset of disability, and extend healthy life expectancy by adopting healthy lifestyles; and (2) to implement evidence-informed programs that improve the health and well-being of patients, health plan members, and members of the community.

##### **Tim Dewhurst, MD, FACC**

Interventional Cardiologist, Medical Director for Clinical Value Improvement, Kaiser Permanente  
Washington State

Dr. Tim Dewhurst is an active interventional cardiologist at Kaiser Permanente in Seattle. He has 17 years of experience in an independent, multispecialty, private practice group where he was a managing board member and chaired the compensation committee. His previous clinical leadership positions have included hospital directorships of the cardiac catheterization labs and cardiovascular clinical quality as well as chairing the cardiovascular peer review committee. He has worked for the last 10 years in a vertically integrated system where he has held clinical and finance leadership roles. Currently, Dr. Dewhurst serves as a regional hospital medical director and an internal consultant for clinical value improvement. He is an active member of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), where he participates in national committees and is a past President of the Washington state ACC chapter.

#### Committee Members

##### **Michael Alexander, MD, MPH, FACC**

Senior Medical Director, CIGNA  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Michael Alexander received his doctor of medicine from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Emory University and his cardiology fellowship at Georgetown and is board certified in both disciplines. Dr. Alexander has an MPH from George Washington University and is a Fellow of ACC and Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine/Cardiovascular Disease. He practiced for 22 years prior to joining Cigna in 2005. He is a national medical director for cardiology, performing medical necessity review and coverage policy

development pertaining to cardiology. Dr. Alexander has served on the faculties of Georgetown, Columbia, and Seton Hall Universities.

**Jacqueline Hawkins Alikhaani**

Patient Advisor  
Los Angeles, California

Jacqueline Alikhaani is a healthcare consumer, heart survivor, and volunteer international patient advocate for heart health. She served as an inaugural member of the American Heart Association Citizen Scientist Task Force (CSTF), in which she helped to conceptualize and develop cardiovascular research projects that have yielded several clinical trial proposals. She looks to help advance and support healthcare consumer voices and values. Jacqueline uses her personal health experiences to serve as a community healthcare research engagement patient partner and volunteer citizen scientist architect-of-change to help advance more patient-centered healthcare and socioeconomic outcomes.

**David Boston, MD, MS**

Medical Director, Virtual Care, OCHIN  
Portland, Oregon

Dr. Dave Boston is a Senior Clinical Informaticist and Medical Director of Virtual Care for OCHIN, a large health center-controlled network of community health centers across the United States (U.S.), where he leads and collaborates on several virtual care and health information exchange workgroups and committees. He is also involved, including as site primary investigator, in several ongoing research projects at OCHIN, studying shared-decision support, remote patient monitoring, and social determinants of health. Dr. Boston continues to see patients as a board-certified internist and cardiologist.

**Linda Briggs, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP**

Associate Professor, George Washington University, School of Nursing  
Washington, District of Columbia

Dr. Linda Briggs received her doctoral degree from the George Washington University in 2010. She is a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Her research focuses on cardiovascular disease, particularly among women. She has published on a variety of cardiovascular topics and received an American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award in 1989. In the care delivery arena, Ms. Briggs has served in a variety of roles, including cardiac surgical program coordinator and nurse practitioner. In her current role, as an Associate Professor at the George Washington University School of Nursing, she serves as the Program Director for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner track. She maintains an active practice as a nurse practitioner focusing on cardiovascular health.

**Leslie Cho, MD**

Section Head, Preventive Cardiology and Rehabilitation, Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Leslie Cho is the section head of Preventive Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation and the Director of the Women's Cardiovascular Center at the Cleveland Clinic. She is uniquely both a preventive and interventional cardiologist. She has published numerous articles and co-authored several books in cardiology and is on steering committees of several large, randomized control studies. Dr. Cho currently serves on the American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Clinical Cardiology Exercise, Cardiac

Rehabilitation, and Prevention Committee and has served in the past on ACC's Peripheral Vascular Disease committee. She has also served on the National Quality Forum's (NQF) Cardiovascular Endorsement & Maintenance Committee in the past.

**Abdulla A. Damluji, MD, MPH, PhD**

Interventional Cardiologist, Inova Health System  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University  
Falls Church, Virginia

Dr. Abdulla Damluji is an interventional cardiologist and Structural Heart Disease Operator at the Inova Heart and Vascular Institute. He is the Director of the Inova Center of Outcomes Research, which is dedicated to produce innovation and improve outcomes for older adults undergoing cardiovascular interventions. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine (i.e., cardiology) at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a Pepper Scholar at Johns Hopkins Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center within the Center on Aging and Health. His National Institutes of Health (NIH)-National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)-funded research focuses on studying health and quality outcomes among older adults undergoing cardiovascular interventions.

**Christina Davidson, MD**

Vice Chair of Quality, Patient Safety & Equity, Baylor College of Medicine  
Chief Quality Officer for Obstetrics & Gynecology, Texas Children's Hospital  
Houston, Texas

Dr. Christina Davidson is a board-certified Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist at Baylor College of Medicine and works in the Texas Medical Center. She is the Vice Chair of Quality, Patient Safety & Equity for the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and the Chief Quality Officer for Obstetrics & Gynecology at Texas Children's Hospital. She co-chairs the Obstetrics committee of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies, which is the state perinatal quality collaborative, and is the Vice Chair of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Patient Safety and Quality Committee.

**Kumar Dharmarajan, MD, MBA**

Chief Scientific Officer  
Associate Chief Medical Officer  
Clover Health  
Jersey City, New Jersey

Dr. Kumar Dharmarajan is a board-certified cardiologist and geriatrician, health outcomes researcher, quality measure developer, and both Chief Scientific Officer and Associate Chief Medical Officer at Clover Health, a Medicare Advantage and technology company. He attended Harvard College, the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Columbia Business School. He trained in internal medicine and geriatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital and cardiology at Columbia University Medical Center. His research has focused on health outcomes and healthcare quality for older adults hospitalized with common cardiovascular conditions, including heart failure and acute myocardial infarction. Dr. Dharmarajan has led outcome measure development for the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS) and sits on the Payor Communications Task Force of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Devices and Radiologic Health (CDRH).

**William Downey, MD**

Enterprise Vice Chair, Cardiovascular Quality and Care Transformation  
Atrium Health  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. William Downey is an interventional cardiologist who leads cardiovascular quality assessment and improvement efforts within Atrium Health. In this work, he leads efforts to develop and scale new models of care within Atrium Health, focusing on models that support the efficient provision of high quality cardiovascular care for populations. He received a bachelor of arts in history and his doctor of medicine both from Duke University and a master's in science from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Downey completed his internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital and then fellowships in cardiovascular medicine and interventional cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is the incoming governor of the North Carolina Chapter of ACC.

**Howard Eisen, MD**

Medical Director of the Cardiac Transplant,  
Mechanical Circulatory Support and Advanced Heart Failure Programs  
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Dr. Howard Eisen serves as the Medical Director of the Cardiac Transplant, Mechanical Circulatory Support, and Advanced Heart Failure Programs at Pennsylvania State University. There, he is an active member of the cardiac transplant and overall transplant Quality Analysis and Performance Improvement (QAPI) committees. Previously at Drexel University/Hahnemann, Dr. Eisen presided over quality and performance assessments and improvements as Chief of the Cardiology Divisions. He has also chaired the Cardiology Performance Improvement Council at Drexel/Hahnemann. Dr. Eisen received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and doctor of medicine from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and received his cardiology training at the Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes Hospital.

**Naftali Zvi Frankel, MS**

Patient Advisor  
Principal, Déclore Consulting  
New York, New York

Naftali Zvi Frankel is an experienced consumer and patient advocate whose areas of focus include patient-centered health policy, outcomes data transparency, patient access to new therapeutics and clinical trials, patient privacy and health information technology (IT) innovation, and health quality improvement. He has assisted patients faced with critical medical decisions, with extensive research and analysis of scientific studies, outcomes data, available treatments, and specialists. He has served as a consumer and patient representative on various national committees, including the (FDA Circulatory System Devices Advisory Committee, American Heart Association Citizen Scientist Think Tank, and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)-Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR) Collaborator Team. He has also represented the position of consumers and patients as a peer reviewer for PCORI, Commonwealth Fund Breakthrough Health Care Opportunities Committee member, and a panelist at the National Academy of Sciences Workshop on Real-World Evidence Generation and Evaluation of Therapeutics. In 2014, he published a widely read article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine* titled *Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement vs Transcatheter Aortic*

*Valve Replacement: A Consumer's Perspective Regarding Data Education and Transparency of Hospitals*, highlighting the patient's need for increased hospital data transparency. He received his master of science in regulatory science from Johns Hopkins University.

**Jake Galdo, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, BCGP**

CEO, Seguridad, Inc.  
Birmingham, Alabama

Dr. Jake Galdo is a Co-Founder and CEO of Seguridad. Seguridad's Choose My Pharmacy develops and implements quality measures specified to evaluate the quality and safety of a community pharmacy. Dr. Galdo also spends his professional time staffing in a neighborhood community pharmacy, developing innovative clinical services, and representing the profession of pharmacy on various boards and advisory committees for regional and national organizations. Dr. Galdo has previous experiences in association management, quality measure development, continuing education, academia, and community pharmacy practice. He received his doctor of pharmacy and completed the first postgraduate year (PGY-1) Community Pharmacy Residency training at the University of Georgia, earned a master of business administration from Samford University, and is board certified in both pharmacotherapy and geriatrics. He lives in Birmingham, Alabama with his wife, daughter, and parents.

**Kimberly Gregory, MD, MPH**

Co-Chair, NQF Perinatal and Women's Health Standing Committee  
Vice Chair, Women's Healthcare Quality & Performance Improvement;  
Helping Hand of Los Angeles – The Miriam Jacobs Chair in Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cedars Sinai Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Kimberly Gregory graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a bachelor of science in psychobiology, received a doctor of medicine from Charles Drew University of Sciences & Medicine, completed residency in OB/GYN at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, and completed a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at Women's Hospital, University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. She received an MPH from Harvard University and is currently a Professor and Vice Chair of Women's Healthcare Quality & Performance Improvement in the OB/GYN Department at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. She has received federal and foundation funding for research in women's health and has participated in numerous regional and national health policy advisory boards.

**Lori Hull-Grommesh, DNP, RN, APRN-BC, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP**

Assistant Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
Houston, Texas

Dr. Lori Hull-Grommesh has 36 years of professional experience as a registered nurse (RN) and acute care nurse practitioner (NP) with a long-time practice focus in cardiology. She earned her bachelor of science in nursing and master of science in nursing at Wichita State University and her doctor of nursing practitioner from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. She directed the CMS Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration for Memorial Hermann Hospital. Dr. Hull-Grommesh has held leadership positions and practiced clinically as a RN and NP in cardiology. She has published and spoke on cardiology, NP leadership, legislation, billing, and practice. Dr. Hull-Grommesh is a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and received the 2016 American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) State Excellence Award for Texas.

**Tiffany Johnson**

Patient Advisor

Chicago, Illinois

Tiffany Johnson is a patient advocate in the stroke community and has personal experience as a caregiver. She has a passion for health equity and disparities and looks to ensure that people of color receive the same level of care as everyone else. She advocates for more strategic partnerships as it relates to equitable care and has been an active member of ATW Health Solutions' stroke research projects CEERIAS and 2CEERIAS. She also advocates for community awareness and education.

**Vilma Joseph, MD, MPH, FASA**

Co-Chair, NQF Surgery Standing Committee

Professor of Anesthesiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center

Bronx, New York

Dr. Vilma Joseph is a physician anesthesiologist and Professor of Anesthesiology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center. She completed her anesthesiology residency, doctor of medicine, and master of public health at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Joseph served as the President of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA) from 2018 to 2019 and is an active member of several committees and organizations related to public health, professional diversity, and quality management at the local, state, and national levels. Her research interests include health disparities during the perioperative period.

**Sue Kendig JD, WHNP-BC, FAANP**

Director of Policy, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

Washington, District of Columbia

Susan Kendig serves as Director of Policy for the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health. A past member of the Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care and current member of the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM) partners group and Executive Committee, she co-lead the development of maternal safety bundles on maternal mental health, postpartum, and women's healthcare. She is a member of the Women's Preventive Services Initiative (WPSI) Advisory Panel, a collaborative interdisciplinary effort to develop, review, update, and disseminate recommendations for women's preventive health services.

**Charles Mahan, PharmD, PhC, RPh**

Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacy, University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dr. Charles Mahan is a Cardiac Critical Care Pharmacist at Presbyterian Hospital. He received his bachelor of pharmacy and doctor of pharmacy from the University of New Mexico (UNM). He specializes in antithrombotic therapy and cardiology. He completed a North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) Fellowship at McMaster University where he externally validated the IMPACT-ILL VTE model. In 2006, Dr. Mahan partnered with NQF and The Joint Commission for venous thromboembolism (VTE) quality measure testing. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor at UNM, and his research interests include reducing VTE and stroke and cardiovascular disease. He has published five book chapters and 30 peer-reviewed articles primarily of original research and delivered 300 lectures nationally and internationally. Dr. Mahan continues to be involved in research and teaching.

**Soeren Mattke, MD, DSc**

Director, Center for Improving Chronic Illness Care and Research Professor of Economics, University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Soeren Mattke is an expert in measure development for a broad range of healthcare applications. He was the founding Director of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Healthcare Quality Indicators Project, which— now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year—develops and publishes indicators for the benchmarking of healthcare systems. He was one of the developers of the original CMS Measures Management System (the “Blueprint”), which standardizes processes and procedures for federal development activities. On numerous other projects, Dr. Mattke has worked on clinical and patient-reported measures for disease management programs, workplace productivity, stroke care, and nursing-sensitive adverse events. He was RAND’s Project Director for a seven-year project to develop medication management measures for CMS that led to several NQF submissions and endorsements and recently led successful NQF submissions, one in oncology and one in substance use. Dr. Mattke served as advisor to several international organizations, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Commission, and the World Economic Forum. Dr. Mattke has worked at RAND, the OECD in Paris, in the healthcare practice of Bain & Company in Boston, Massachusetts (MA); Abt Associates; a policy consulting firm in Cambridge, MA; and Harvard University. He trained as an internist and cardiologist at the University of Munich. Dr. Mattke received his doctor of medicine at the University of Munich and his doctor of science in health policy at Harvard University.

**Alex Sox-Harris, PhD, MS**

Co-Chair, NQF Surgery Standing Committee  
Professor, S-SPIRE Center, Department of Surgery, Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dr. Alex Sox-Harris 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 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.

**Ashley Tait-Dinger, MBA**

Vice President  
Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value  
Winter Springs, Florida

With a strong background in finance, IT, and data analytics, Ashley Tait-Dinger joined the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value in 2012. She leads its patient safety and quality activities with The Leapfrog Group and oversees its high priorities of data transparency and payment reform. She previously led the start-up and operation of the Healthcare Information Technology (HIT) Regional Extension Center at the University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Medicine. Ms. Tait-Dinger earned her master’s degree in business administration from the Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College and completed a bachelor of science degree in accounting at University of Central Florida (UCF).



**David Walsworth, MD, FAAFP**

Department of Family Medicine, Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dr. David Walsworth is a family physician with over two decades of experience in quality improvement, medical direction, and advocacy at the state and national levels. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Michigan State University (MSU) and is both Associate Chair for Clinical Affairs and Medical Director for the Family Health Center, a joint practice of the College of Human Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, and the College of Nursing. Dr. Walsworth chairs the American Academy of Family Physicians Chronic Conditions Annual Live Course and the Family Medicine Foundation of Michigan Professional Development Committee. He has an extensive history of involvement in health systems quality services, including Patient-Centered Medical Home, Medicare CPC+, and Medicaid's Statewide Innovation Model for Michigan.

**Daniel A. Waxman, MD**

Health Policy Researcher at RAND, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Daniel Waxman is an Associate Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine at UCLA and a Health Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation. Dr. Waxman is board certified in cardiology and emergency medicine and earned a PhD in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School. At RAND, he has worked on several projects focused on quality measurement in the realms of measure development, implementation, and evaluation. He has interest/expertise in considering real-world implementation issues (e.g., gaming, and unintended consequences) and exploring process/outcome relationships and acute-care topics at the nexus of cardiology and emergency medicine.

**Jeffrey Wexler**

Patient Advisor  
Senior Project Manager, Quest Diagnostics  
Far Rockaway, New York

Jeffrey Wexler started out his career as a co-founder of an ambulatory cardiac laboratory and most recently worked for Quest Diagnostics as a Senior Project Manager involved with its patient services centers and a Senior Project Manager for United Healthcare in its Clinical Data Services Management (CDSM) division. He is an active member of Mended Hearts and The Debra Johnson Heart Health Support Group (Valley Medical Center), as well as a patient ambassador for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and a patient advocate for the Alliance for Aging Research focusing on patients with atrial fibrillation and other cardiac issues.

**Wen-Chih Hank Wu, MD, MPH**

Chief of Cardiology, Veterans Affairs  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dr. Wen-Chih Hank Wu received his doctor of medicine from the University of Costa Rica. He completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Connecticut and a cardiology fellowship at Brown University. He is currently the Chief of Cardiology at Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Medical Director of the Miriam Hospital's Cardiovascular Rehabilitation program. Dr. Wu is a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Brown University. He received independent funding from the U.S.



Department of Veterans Affairs NIH, and non-profit organizations to study system redesign to improve quality of care in diabetes and heart failure. Dr. Wu is a volunteer member of the Executive Board of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) and a member of the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute (Providence, RI) Quality of Care committee.