



NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Driving measurable health
improvements together

Final Roster

Cardiovascular Standing Committee - 2022

Committee Chairs

Thomas Kottke, MD, MSPH

Co-chair

Medical Director for Population Health, Consulting Cardiologist, HealthPartners
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Thomas E. Kottke is the Medical Director for Population Health at HealthPartners and a clinical cardiologist in HealthPartners Medical Group, 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: 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

Co-chair

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, cardiovascular clinical quality and chairing the cardiovascular peer review committee. He has worked for the last ten years in a vertically integrated system where he has held clinical and finance leadership roles. Currently, he 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
Healthcare Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Michael Alexander received his MD from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He did his residency in internal medicine at Emory and his cardiology fellowship at Georgetown. He is board certified in internal medicine and cardiology. Dr. Alexander has an MPH from George Washington and is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology 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. She 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, 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. He continues to see patients as a board-certified internist and cardiologist.

Linda Briggs, DNP

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 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. She currently serves on the American Health Association (AHA) council on Clinical Cardiology Exercise, Cardiac Rehabilitation, and Prevention Committee and has served in the past on American College of Cardiology (ACC) Peripheral Vascular Disease committee. She has also served on the National Quality Forum (NQF) Cardiovascular endorsement maintenance committee in the past.

Helene Clayton-Jeter, OD

Healthcare Consultant, Clinical Optometrist, CrossOver Healthcare Ministry
Arlington, Virginia

Dr. Helene Clayton-Jeter is a healthcare consultant and clinical optometrist at CrossOver Healthcare Ministry. She is also Director of Advocacy, Thought Leadership and Policy for the National Alliance against Disparities in Patient Health; Director of Friends of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; Director of Healthcare and Life Sciences, at Innovacore, Inc.; and Founder of HealthScape LifeSciences, LLC. Her over 15 years of experience in federal and state government, as the Cardiovascular and Endocrine Liaison Program Director in the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner's Office and Commonwealth of Virginia Board Chair positions on the Boards of Health Professions and Optometry, rounds out her over 20 years of clinical, community, and healthcare provider advocacy, population health, and regulatory experience. Dr. Clayton-Jeter received her OD and BA in visual science degrees from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. She earned her BS degree in biology/biochemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Abdulla A. Damluji, MD, MPH, PhD

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

Dr. Abdulla A. 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 dedicated to produce innovation and improve outcomes for older adults undergoing cardiovascular interventions. He is an associate professor of medicine (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.

Kumar Dharmarajan, MD, MBA

Chief Scientific Officer, Clover Health
Jersey City, New Jersey

Dr. Kumar Dharmarajan is a board-certified cardiologist and geriatrician, health outcomes researcher, quality measure developer, and Chief Scientific 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. He has led outcome measure development for the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services. He currently oversees all clinical services provided by Clover Health.

William Downey, MD

Vice Chair, Quality and Care Transformation
Medical Director, Interventional Cardiology
Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute, Atrium Healthcare
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. William Downey is an interventional cardiologist who leads quality assessment and improvement efforts within Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute (SHVI), a 250-provider multispecialty cardiovascular institute within Atrium Healthcare. This work includes efforts to reduce variation in care. In addition, he leads efforts at innovating new models of care within SHVI, focusing on models which support the efficient provision of high-quality care for populations.

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. 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 MD degree from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He did 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 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 Food and Drug Administration (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 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 JAMA Internal Medicine, *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 MS degree 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 PGY-1 Community Pharmacy Residency training from 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, AL with his wife, daughter, and parents.

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 and acute care nurse practitioner with a long-time practice focus in cardiology. She earned her BSN and MSN at Wichita State University and her DNP from The University of Texas in Houston. She directed the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 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, nurse practitioner leadership, legislation, billing, and practice. Dr. Hull-Grommesh is a fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and received the 2016 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.

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 BSP Pharm/PharmD 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, he partnered with NQF/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. He 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 that— now in its 12th year—develops and publishes indicators for the benchmarking of healthcare systems. He was one of the developers of the original Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Measures Management System (the “Blueprint”) that 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 adviser to several international organizations, such as the OECD, the European Commission, and the World Economic Forum. Dr. Mattke worked at RAND, the OECD in Paris, in the healthcare practice of Bain & Company in Boston, at Abt Associates, a policy consulting firm in Cambridge, MA, and at Harvard University. He trained as an internist and cardiologist at the University of Munich. Dr. Mattke received his MD at the University of Munich and his DSc in health policy at Harvard University.

Gwen Mayes, JD, MMSc

Patient Story Coach/Writer
Annapolis, Maryland

Gwen Mayes has a master’s degree in medical science in advanced respiratory care and worked as physician assistant for a heart transplant program. She has experience working in patient advocacy, government affairs, and regulatory roles for medical device and pharmaceutical industries. Ms. Mayes is a lawyer and well versed in regulatory language through the patient lens. She frequently speaks and writes on patient advocacy and was the former executive vice president of Public Policy for the National Patient Advocate Foundation during enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). She has an interest in healthcare disparities having worked in inner city hospitals with indigent care. She has lived with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy since birth and is a national champion for WomenHeart.

Kristi Mitchell, MPH

Senior Vice President, Avalere Health, LLC
Washington, District of Columbia

Kristi Mitchell is a Senior Vice President at Avalere Health, overseeing its evidence translation and implementation practice. She leads efforts to support the use of data for strategic decision making across multiple sectors and to develop strategic partnerships for quality measure development. As the Chief Science Officer for the American College of Cardiology (ACC), she provided methodological and scientific direction for multiple ACC initiatives, including the National Cardiovascular Data Registry. She also led the development of quality metrics, performance measures, and participant feedback reports using data from the registry.

Ashley Tait-Dinger, MBA

Director of Analytics, Alternative Payment Models (APM) & Finance
Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value
Winter Springs, Florida

With a strong background in finance, IT, and data analytics, Ashley Tait-Dinger, MBA, joined the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value in 2012. She leads their patient safety and quality activities with The Leapfrog Group and oversees their 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 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), associate chair for clinical affairs, and medical director of 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 Waxman, MD

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

Dr. Daniel A. Waxman is an Associate Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine of UCLA, and a Health Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation. Dr. Waxman is board certified in cardiology and emergency medicine, and he 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 considering real-world

implementation issues (e.g., gaming, and unintended consequences), exploring process/outcome relationships, and acute-care topics at the nexus of cardiology and emergency medicine.

Jeffrey Wexler

Patient Advisor

Sr. 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 their patient services centers and a senior project manager for United Healthcare in their Clinical Data Services Management (CDSM) division. He is an active member of Mended Hearts, The Debra Johnson Heart Health Support Group (Valley Medical Center), 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 MD 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 VAMC and 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 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the 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 in 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.