



Cardiovascular Endorsement Maintenance Steering Committee

Carol Allred, RN

Chair of the Board of Directors
National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

Carol Allred serves as President of the Board of Directors of WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, the only national organization promoting women's heart health through advocacy, community education and patient support. After suffering a major heart attack with substantial damage, heart failure, angina, cardiac procedures and a defibrillator implant, Carol learned about WomenHeart and registered. Since then, Carol has served in increasing roles of responsibility including National Spokesperson, board member, Board Secretary and now, Board President. Her passionate, true story of experiencing and living with heart disease is inspirational to other women and she has helped countless others through her presentations.

Rochelle Ayala, MD, FACP

Administrator and Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care Services
Memorial Healthcare System

Rochelle Knowles Ayala, MD, FACP, Administrator and Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care Services at Memorial Healthcare System in Hollywood, Florida, directs the delivery of healthcare to uninsured patients of south Broward County. She recently served as Project Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care Project, which aimed to improve quality and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in cardiac care. She is a member of the AHRQ Subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee (SNAC) on Medicaid Adult Health Quality Measures and a member of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH).

Sung Hee Leslie Cho, MD

Section Head, Preventative Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation
Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Cho is a Section head of Preventive Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation and the Director of the Women's Cardiovascular Center at the Cleveland Clinic. She is a unique combination of Preventive and Interventional cardiologist and is in charge of CCF-IRB approved database of more than 15,000 primary and secondary cardiology patients. She has served as a member of the Peripheral Vascular Disease committee for the American College of Cardiology and expert advisor on Cardiology for Health Management Corporation which is a subsidiary of Wellpoint Inc. In aggregate, her experience and expertise would uniquely qualify her participate in NQF Cardiovascular endorsement maintenance committee.

Mary George, MD, MSPH is the Medical Officer for the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke (DHDS) Prevention at the CDC in Atlanta. At CDC since 2006, she and oversees the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry and represents DHDS at the AHA/ASA Stroke Leadership Council, the Stroke Belt Consortium, and the Brain Attack Coalition, and has represented CDC in the development of the Stroke Consensus Performance Measures. Mary obtained her medical degree from Oregon Health & Science University; completed residencies in general and vascular surgery and plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Rochester; obtained masters in public health informatics Emory U. Is a board certified surgeon & Fellow of the Am College of Surgeons.

Raymond Gibbons, MD

Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic

As a cardiac imaging expert, Dr. Raymond Gibbons, MD has long advocated more judicious use of imaging, and published studies that show when cardiac imaging is not needed or useful. Dr. Gibbons has worked intensively for more than a decade as a participant and leader of the ACCF/American Heart Association Clinical Practice Guideline effort to promote evidence-based medicine. During his term as president of the AHA, he tried to focus national attention on the urgent need for healthcare reform. As a member of the "technical panel" for the first Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC-SPECT imaging), and a reviewer of subsequent AUC, he became concerned about their limitations. With internal Mayo funding, Dr. Gibbons tested the AUC for SPECT on both stress SPECT imaging and stress echocardiography at Mayo Rochester. This project became the first published application of the AUC for SPECT, and was the only study cited by the National Quality Forum panel in its draft imaging measures.

Dianne V. Jewell, PT, DPT, PhD, CCS

Assistant Professor
Virginia Commonwealth University

Dianne Jewell is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. Her primary teaching responsibilities include courses in health policy and in administration and management in physical therapy practice. She also is responsible for evidence-based practice courses in both the professional and transitional doctor of physical therapy programs. Dr. Jewell is a board certified clinical specialist in cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy. She practices several hours a week in a free clinic providing services to uninsured individuals. Prior to joining the faculty Dr. Jewell was the Director of Quality Management for Sheltering Arms Physical Rehabilitation Centers in Richmond, VA. Currently she serves on the Boards of Directors of Sheltering Arms and the American Physical Therapy Association. Dr. Jewell's primary research interests include practice variation in physical therapy, disparities in access to physical therapy and rehabilitation services, and outcomes of physical therapy care. She has published several peer reviewed articles and is the author of Guide to Evidence-based Physical Therapy Practice (Jones & Bartlett, 2008).

Dana E. King, MD, MS

Professor Vice Chair Department of Family Medicine
Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. King is Vice Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. Cardiovascular disease and prevention have been career-long interests of his, with a recent concentration on interventions to reduce cardiovascular risk. He is a well published researcher and has served as presenter and faculty for numerous medical conferences and educational seminars. He has provided leadership for the development of two local quality improvement programs that have impacted patient satisfaction and quality of care. Dr. King is also recognized for Excellence by the NCQA for Stroke and Diabetes.

Bruce Koplan, MD, MPH

Associate Physician
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Bruce Koplan, MD, MPH is a board certified electro-physiologist at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. Dr. Koplan completed his medicine residency training at Emory University and cardiology and electrophysiology trainee at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Koplan has extensive clinical, research and academic expertise in heart rhythm disorders. Dr. Koplan is an assistant professor of Medicine at the Harvard Medical School and has published over 50 articles, chapters and editorials. He is the Director, Outcomes and Quality Care, Cardiac Arrhythmia Section and served on a Quality Measures Committee at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH

Medical Director, Evidence Based Health
HealthPartners

Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH is Medical Director for Evidence-Based Health at HealthPartners, a Senior Clinical Investigator at HealthPartners Research Foundation, Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, and a practicing cardiologist. Dr. Kottke has published extensively on the development of chronic disease prevention and management programs and has participated extensively in the development of guidelines for the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI). Dr. Kottke has provided consultation to the WHO on chronic disease prevention and management and is a member of the IOM Committee on a National Surveillance System for Cardiovascular & Select Chronic Diseases.

David Magid, MD, MPH

Director of Research
Colorado Permanente Medical Group

Dr. Magid has led or participated in numerous studies regarding cardiovascular disease care that have led to publications in the NEJM and JAMA. He serves on the Board of the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine, chaired the CMS Technical Advisory Panel on Emergency Care, and serves as a grant reviewer for AHRQ, NHLBI, CDC, the Emergency Medicine Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Annals of Emergency Medicine as Decision Editor and serves on multiple national committees including the JCAHO/CMS AMI Quality Measure Task Force focused on assessing time to reperfusion for AMI patients, the ACC ACTION ACS Registry Committee, the ACC STEMI D2B Task Force, and several AHA committees.

George J. Philippides, MD, FACC

Associate Chief of Clinical Affairs and Chief Quality Officer
Boston Medical Center

George J. Philippides MD is Associate Chief of Clinical Affairs and Chief Quality Officer in the cardiovascular section of Boston Medical Center, Boston's inner city safety net hospital. In this capacity, he introduced AHA GTWG standards to BMC and chairs the BMC Cardiology Quality and Patient Safety Steering committee, which oversees all cardiology quality projects and initiatives. Outside of BMC, Dr. Philippides is a member of AHA's Advocacy Advisory Committee, which advocates improving access to care for underserved and vulnerable Massachusetts residents, and is a member of the AHA Health Equities task force. Dr Philippides' publications and academic pursuits have focused on coronary care, diabetes, and heart disease in women.

Jon Rasmussen, PharmD

Chief, Clinical Pharmacy Cardiovascular Services
Kaiser Permanente Medical - Colorado

Jon Rasmussen is the Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Cardiovascular Services for Kaiser Permanente - Colorado. In this role, he supervises the Clinical Pharmacy Cardiac Risk Service, Clinical Pharmacy Anticoagulation and Anemia Service, and Clinical Pharmacy Float Pool. He received his Doctorate of Pharmacy from South Dakota State University and completed a Pharmacy Residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. In addition to his role at Kaiser Permanente, Jon serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado, School of Pharmacy and has published several research studies related to his work to improve the health outcomes of patients with heart disease. Jon is Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist with Added Qualifications in Cardiology.

Devorah Rich, PhD

Vice President, Cost Quality
Greater Detroit Area Health Council

Devorah Rich presently serves as the Vice President of Cost Quality for the Greater Detroit Area Health Council (GDAHC). GDAHC is a regional coalition dedicated to improving health care quality, access and cost. Prior to joining GDAHC Devorah served as Customer Satisfaction Director at the University of Michigan Health, and later assumed the role of Research Investigator where she researched faculty satisfaction and physician burnout. Devorah has a B.S. in Geology from the University of Pittsburgh, an M.S. in Science, Technology and Values from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Ph.D. in Socio-technical Planning from the University of Michigan.

Andrea M. Russo, MD

Director, Electrophysiology and Arrhythmia Services
Cooper University Hospital

Dr. Russo serves as Director of Electrophysiology and Arrhythmia Services and the Director of the Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellowship Program at Cooper university Hospital in Camden, New Jersey. In this capacity, she provides clinical care to patients and instructs fellows, nurses, and Physician Assistants not only on practice delivery, but also on quality assurance and performance measure/clinical guidelines adherence. Dr. Russo holds numerous voluntary quality improvement leadership positions within ACC and the Heart Rhythm Society as well as service on Cooper's Performance Improvement Council. Her extensive lecturing and research portfolio includes work on gender differences in arrhythmias and disparities of care.

Mark Sanz, MD

Interventional Cardiologist
St. Patrick Hospital

Dr. Sanz is an interventional cardiologist at St. Patrick Hospital and International Heart Institute in Missoula, Montana, with primary responsibilities in the cath-lab, performing approximately 250 coronary interventions and 200 peripheral interventions per year. He is Director of Vascular Medicine at the Heart Institute, performing non-invasive and endovascular procedures, and serves on multiple quality and health IT committees for his facility, the State of Montana, and the American College of Cardiology, and has wide experience implementing quality improvement programs and processes utilizing NQF-endorsed measures. As Primary or Co-Investigator on numerous clinical trials, Dr. Sanz guided interventional research and federal grants.

Sidney C. Smith, Jr., MD

Director, Center for Cardiovascular Science & Medicine
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Sidney C. Smith, Jr, MD is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Science and Medicine at the University of North Carolina. Dr Smith is a past president of the American Heart Association and past member of AHA Board of Directors. He chaired the ACC/AHA guideline committee to revise PCI guidelines, served on the committee on guidelines for the management of acute myocardial infarction and chaired the AHA/ACC Guidelines on Secondary Prevention for patients with atherosclerotic vascular disease. Dr. Smith is President-Elect of the World Heart Federation. He serves as Chair of the Executive Committee for the new National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH. He has authored more than 300 papers and chapters.

Roger L. Snow, MD, MPH

Deputy Medical Director
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Dr Snow is the Deputy Medical Director of the Office of Clinical Affairs of the Office of Medicaid in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He attended medical school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, and trained in medicine and pathology in Boston and is Board-certified in both specialties. Prior to his service in Medicaid he practiced medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. He supervises a staff of Associate Medical Directors and chairs the Committee on Provider Review. He coordinates activities in Prior Authorization, Quality Assessment and clinical topics. He holds a degree in Public Health from Harvard.

Christine A. Stearns, JD, MS

Vice President, Health & Legal Affairs
New Jersey Business & Industry Association

Christine Stearns is a healthcare policy expert for the New Jersey Business & Industry Association. She serves on numerous State boards which regulate various aspects of New Jersey's healthcare system, including: Health Care Administration Board, the Individual Health Coverage Program, and the Small Employer Health Benefits Program. She also serves as co-chair of the Health Care Payer's Coalition, a non-profit PPO. In 2005, she co-chaired Governor Jon S. Corzine's Health Care and Senior Service Policy Group which advised the Governor during his transition. In 2010, NJBIZ named her one of the 50 Most Powerful People in Health Care in New Jersey.

Kathleen Szumanski, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Senior Associate
Emergency Nurses Association

Kathleen Szumanski, MSN is Quality specialist at ENA, serving as the organizations resource specialist on quality and safety in the ED. She was the Director of Clinical Excellence and Nursing Professional Development, coordinating hospital quality programs and Nursing Magnet Designation. Previous experience also includes RN at Wellness Incorporated in Aurora, IL where she performed cardiovascular health screening and CV risk reduction education. As Clinical Manager of the MICU and CICU at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL she was responsible for managing two adult critical care units, teaching critical care classes and coordinating activities of Code Blue Team.

Suma A. Thomas, MD, FACC

Cardiologist
Lahey Clinic Medical Center

Dr. Thomas is a cardiologist at Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Burlington, Massachusetts and a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) with clinical expertise in general cardiology and echocardiography. She teaches Tufts University medical students and residents as well as Lahey Clinic fellows. She participates in multiple advocacy and quality committees. At Lahey Clinic, she is chairperson of the Code Committee. Nationally, she is a member of the ACC Advocacy Steering Committee, and also serves as a delegate to the American Medical Association. Dr. Thomas worked at the ACC for a year doing advocacy and quality work.