



## Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee, Fall 2019

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### Committee Chairs

#### **R. Sean Morrison, MD**

Co-Director, Patty and Jay Baker National Palliative Care Center; Director, National Palliative Care Research Center; Director, Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai New York, New York

Nominated by the Center to Advance Palliative Care

Dr. Morrison has served on the MAP Hospital Workgroup since 2011. He has extensive knowledge of quality measurement and the nine different federal hospital and setting-specific quality programs. He is a demonstrated leader in the field of palliative medicine, both providing direct care to patients and spearheading countless national research initiatives to expand the evidence-base and ensure that findings are rapidly translated into clinical practice. This research includes pain and symptom management in high-risk and medically underserved populations, decision making at the end of life, and quality measures in palliative care. Most recently, Dr. Morrison's research has focused on improving the management of pain in older adults and on developing and evaluating models of palliative care delivery in hospitals and the community. Outside of MAP, he has chaired numerous task forces and committees, both nationally and internationally, and served as the President of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Morrison's CV demonstrates his vast experience directing and conducting research and reporting findings back to a number of federal entities including NIH and HHS.

#### **Deborah Waldrop, PhD, LMSW, ACSW**

Professor, University of Buffalo, School of Social Work  
Buffalo, New York

Nominated by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

Deborah Waldrop, LMSW, PhD is a Professor and the Associate Dean for Faculty Development at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work (UBSSW). Deborah joined the UBSSW faculty after spending 20 years as a social worker in a variety of healthcare settings including hospice. Drawing from the experiences of older adults and their families Dr. Waldrop conducts research about the needs and concerns that emerge at life's end, means for improving advance care planning, and caregivers' adaptation in bereavement. Deborah participated as a member of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine's Measuring what Matters initiative.

## Committee Members

### **Margie Atkinson, D Min, BCC**

Director, Pastoral Care, Ethics and Palliative Care, Morton Plant Mease/Bay Care Health System  
Palm Harbor, Florida

Nominated by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

Dr. Margie Atkinson is the Director of Pastoral Care, Ethics and Palliative Care programs for Morton Plant Mease Healthcare, part of BayCare Health System in the Tampa Bay Area of Florida. Atkinson's expertise includes pastoral and spiritual care, and administration in multiple settings, including hospice, acute care, and children's hospital settings. Atkinson currently oversees the spiritual care and palliative care services for four acute care hospitals and one LTACH in the Tampa Bay area. She implemented a clinical pastoral education program in BayCare Health System and has been instrumental in developing palliative care in two health systems. She currently co-leads the 13-hospital system's palliative care collaborative, a group consisting of leadership from across the system.

### **Sree Battu, MD**

Senior Associate Consultant, Mayo Clinic  
Beachwood, Ohio

Sree Battu, MD, is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Brain Injury Medicine. She is a Senior Associate Consultant at Mayo Clinic working in the Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Enterprise Group. Previously, she worked at the Cleveland Clinic and the Veterans Health Care System. While at Cleveland Clinic she served as PM&R Quality Review Officer, Enterprise Fall Prevention/Management Co-Chair, and Assistant Residency Program Director. She was responsible for developing and implementing several quality projects with multidisciplinary teams and teaching about transitions through the post-acute continuum emphasizing the need for patient safety and quality.

### **Samira Beckwith, LCSW, FACHE, LHD**

President and CEO, Hope HealthCare Services  
Fort Myers, Florida

Samira Beckwith has more than 30 years of experience in hospice and healthcare. As President and CEO of Hope HealthCare Services for over 25 years, Dr. Beckwith created an innovative national model of healthcare for the future by bridging hospice with other long-term care programs. She also launched a successful PACE program and recently expanded the Hope Kids Care program to meet growing community needs. Beckwith has clinical, administrative, and public policy expertise, as well as extensive federal and private payer knowledge. She is a frequent participant in national and state health policy forums and has provided expert testimony before government bodies including the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and U.S. Senate Aging Committee.

### **Amy J. Berman, BSN**

Senior Program Officer, John A. Hartford Foundation  
New York, New York

Amy Berman, a senior program officer with The John A. Hartford Foundation, is best known for publicly sharing her experiences living with stage 4 breast cancer. She authored pieces on value in healthcare decisions, palliative care, and implications for patients, practice, and policy. Her piece in *Health Affairs*, *Living Life In My Own Way—And Dying That Way As Well*, was among the most read in the history of the journal. At the John A. Hartford Foundation, Ms. Berman, a nurse, leads the Foundation's investments

in models of care that improve health of older adults including palliative care. Ms. Berman is the recipient of numerous honors for advocacy on behalf of those facing serious illness including the Presidential Citation from AAHPM.

**Cleanne Cass, DO, FAAHPM, FAAFP**

Director of Community Care and Education, Hospice of Dayton  
Dayton, Ohio

Nominated by the American Osteopathic Association

Cleanne Cass, DO, FAAHPM, FAAFP is the Director of Community Care and Education, Hospice of Dayton, heading in-home patient services and education for medical students, residents, and fellows in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Cass is an appointed member of the Ohio Governor's Cabinet Opioid Action team developing guidelines for safe opioid prescribing. She is also a member of the state task force working toward implementation of MOLST (medical orders for life sustaining treatment). She represented the AOA on the NQF Advisory Panel which developed *A National Framework and Preferred Practices for Palliative and Hospice Care Quality* published December 2006.

**Marian Grant, DNP, CRNP**

Senior Regulatory Advisor, Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC)  
Washington, DC

Marian Grant is Senior Regulatory Advisor for the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care and a policy consultant for the Center to Advance Palliative Care. In those roles she reviews proposed regulations, payment models, and quality measures and drafts comments on those affecting people with serious illness. She helped draft the new community-based palliative care standards and certification for the Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) and is on the NQF Committee for its Serious Illness Network. Dr. Grant practices as a palliative care nurse practitioner at the University of Maryland Medical Center and speaks nationally and internationally on palliative care.

**George Handzo, BCC, CSSBB**

Director, Health Services Research and Quality, HealthCare Chaplaincy  
Los Angeles, California

Nominated by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

Rev. Handzo is widely regarded as a leading international authority on the practice of professional healthcare chaplaincy. He participated in the development of the Systems of Belief Inventory (SBI). He led the effort that created North American standards for the certification of chaplains, and is currently leading the development of the first set of measurable outcomes for healthcare chaplaincy. Rev. Handzo has been part of two national and one international interdisciplinary consensus conferences developing models and goals for the integration of spiritual care in healthcare and is a member of the Global Network for Spirituality and Health leadership team.

**Arif H. Kamal, MD, MBA, MHS, FACP, FAAHPM**

Physician Quality and Outcomes Officer, Duke Cancer Institute  
Durham, North Carolina

Nominated by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

Dr. Arif Kamal is the Physician Quality and Outcomes Officer for the Duke Cancer Institute, with dual appointments in the Division of Medical Oncology and Section of Palliative Care at Duke University. He is a leader in several national palliative care quality initiatives, including the Global Palliative Care Quality Alliance, and has research funding from AHRQ, Cambia Health Foundation, and the Centers for Medicaid

and Medicare Innovation at CMS. Dr. Kamal completed Internal Medicine residency and Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship at the Mayo Clinic and Hematology/Oncology fellowship at Duke University. He holds a master's in Health Sciences – Clinical Research from the Duke Clinical Research Training Program.

**Suzanne Johnson, MPH, RN**

Chief Operating Officer, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization  
Alexandria, Virginia

Suzi Johnson currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer at the National Hospice and Palliative care Organization. Johnson was most recently Vice President at Sharp HospiceCare (since 1986) and brings her 33 years of experience to her new position at NHPCO, the leading organization representing hospice and palliative care providers and professionals. NHPCO works to expand access to a proven person-centered model for healthcare—one that provides patients and their loved ones with comfort, peace, and dignity during life's most intimate and vulnerable experiences.

**Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, FACO, FACP**

Director and Chief, Center for Geriatrics, University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth  
Fort Worth, Texas

Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, is the Director and Chief of the Center for Geriatrics and Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Endowed Chair in Geriatrics at the UNT Health Science Center. Dr. Knebl is Medical Director of the James L. West Presbyterian Special Care Center as well as medical director of a number of assisted living facilities. She has received the "Internist of the Year" Award from the American College of Osteopathic Internists and has been awarded the TCOM Deans Research Award. Dr. Knebl has an extensive research background in geriatric care and education, having obtained numerous federally-funded grants.

**Christopher Laxton, CAE**

Executive Director, AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
Columbia, Maryland

Christopher E. Laxton, CAE has over 30 years of experience in healthcare nonprofit leadership. He was appointed Executive Director of AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA) in February 2013. He serves as chair of the Advancing Excellence in Long-Term Care Collaborative, and sits on the board of the Center for Excellence in Assisted Living. From 2008 until the present, he has served as a National Examiner for the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest award for organizational performance excellence. In 2019 he was appointed to the panel of judges for the Baldrige Award.

**Katherine Lichtenberg, DO, MPH, FAAFP**

Physician Director, Enhanced Personal Health Care, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Saint Louis, Missouri

Kate Lichtenberg is Physician Director for Enhanced Personal Health Care with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MO, where she leads the medical home initiative to improve quality while reducing costs. Dr. Lichtenberg is board-certified in family medicine and public health/general preventive medicine, and practiced full-time until joining Anthem. She serves on the AAFP Commission for Quality and Practice reviewing quality measures and formulating policies on quality and practice issues. She has spent the last 12 years volunteering at a retirement convent where she delivers acute, chronic and end-of-life care to geriatric residents.

**Kelly Michaelson, MD, MPH, FCCM, FAP**

Professor of Pediatrics and Julia and David Uihlein Professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities  
Director, Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician, Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois  
Nominated by Center to Advance Palliative Care

Dr. Kelly Michelson is the Director of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and an attending physician in the pediatric critical care division at Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Her research interests include communication, decision making, palliative care, bereavement support, and ethics. Currently, her research focuses on communication and decision making among patients, family caregivers, and professional caregivers in the pediatric intensive care unit as well as in the palliative care setting. Her work uses qualitative and quantitative methods, and patient/stakeholder engagement and community-based participatory research methods.

**Douglas Nee, Pharm D, MS**

Clinical Pharmacist, Self  
San Diego, California

Dr. Nee is a clinical pharmacist with a practice focus in hospice and palliative care. He received the designation of Faculty Scholar from the Harvard Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice. Dr. Nee previously served on the NQF Steering Committee for Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care, and is previous Chair of the Section Advisory Group on Pain Management and Palliative Care for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. He has authored book chapters and published articles in hospice and palliative care, and lectures at the state and national level on pain management, palliative care, and end-of-life care.

**Laura Porter, MD**

Medical Advisor and Senior Patient Advocate, Colon Cancer Alliance  
Washington, District of Columbia

Laura Porter is a 10 year stage 4 colon cancer survivor. She has worked with the Colon Cancer Alliance on a variety of patient support and advocacy issues. She has taken the lead on a variety of palliative care and end-of-life issues. Her desire is that all patients have the best quality of life throughout their journey and be as comfortable as possible at the end of life.

**Lynn Reinke, PhD, ARNP, FAAN**

Research Investigator/Nurse Practitioner, VA Puget Sound Health Care System  
Seattle, Washington

Lynn Reinke's program of research focuses on improving the delivery of palliative care for patients with advanced, serious illnesses, specifically COPD, lung cancer, and multimorbidities. Ms. Reinke is testing methods of identifying unmet physical and psychosocial needs among older patients with multimorbidities and is sought out for her clinical expertise in managing patients with severe dyspnea and dyspnea crisis. In her role as a Health & Aging Policy fellow, she is working on aggregating data from care plans to allocate community resources for elderly persons whose goal is to remain independent. Ms. Reinke served on "Measuring what Matters" panel for AAHPM/HPNA.

**Tracy Schroeffer, PhD, MSW**

Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Wisconsin, Madison, School of Social Work  
Madison, Wisconsin

Nominated by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

Dr. Schroeffer is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work and is affiliated with the University's Institute on Aging, Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Center on Patient Partnerships. She is a recipient of the Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar Award, a national award that provided support for her research in the area of aging and end of life. Nationally, Dr. Schroeffer is president of the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW), an executive committee member of the Social Work and Hospice Palliative Care Network (SWHPN), and a prior member of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Palliative Care and End-of-Life Steering Committee. Dr. Schroeffer served as a reviewer for the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 2014 report, *Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life*. She has been an invited participant to several end-of-life and healthcare think tank meetings held in Washington, DC by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

**Linda Schwimmer, JD**

Attorney, President and CEO, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute  
Pennington, New Jersey

Linda Schwimmer is the President and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. The Quality Institute is a nonprofit focused on improving the quality and affordability of healthcare in New Jersey. Ms. Schwimmer is also a member of the board of the Leapfrog Group, a national hospital safety advocacy group that issues the Hospital Safety Grade. Ms. Schwimmer serves on the board of the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement, is Vice Chair for the National Quality Forum (NQF) Consensus Standards Approval Committee, and also serves on the NQF Palliative and End-of-Life Care Standing Committee. Ms. Schwimmer served as a co-chair on Governor Phil Murphy's healthcare transition team.

Prior to joining the Quality Institute, Ms. Schwimmer was Director of Strategic Relations & External Affairs at Horizon Healthcare Innovations, a subsidiary of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. There, Schwimmer was on the leadership team that brought Accountable Care Organizations and the largest Patient Centered Medical Home program to New Jersey.

Ms. Schwimmer also served in State Government as Director of Legislation and Policy for the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance, where she represented the Department's position before the State Legislature and worked with state and federal officials on priority legislative initiatives impacting the insurance, banking, and real estate industries. Ms. Schwimmer's experience in state government also includes policy and counsel positions with the Senate Majority Office, where she staffed the Judiciary and Commerce Committees.

Ms. Schwimmer also has experience in the federal government, having clerked for a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge and worked as an attorney at the U.S. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. For over a decade, she was a lawyer in private practice, specializing in bankruptcy and commercial law.

Ms. Schwimmer received a BA with honors from the University of California, Berkeley, and a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.

**Christine Seel Ritchie, MD, MSPH**

Professor of Medicine in Residence, Harris Fishbon Distinguished Professor for Clinical Translational Research in Aging, University of California San Francisco, Jewish Home of San Francisco Center for Research on Aging  
San Francisco, California

Nominated by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

Christine Ritchie, MD, MSPH, is the Harris Fishbon Distinguished Professor at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She is a board certified geriatrician and palliative care physician with long-standing experience in clinical care delivery and advanced illness research. Dr. Ritchie's research focuses on quality of life and healthcare issues surrounding multimorbidity. She works locally and nationally with American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and the Center to Advance Palliative Care, and the Coalition to promote the development of quality-of-care measures for palliative care. She has served in an advisory role to both the Quality Data Assessment Collection Tool (QDACT) Initiative and the Palliative Care Quality Network (PCQN).

**Janelle Shearer, RN, BSN, MA, CPHQ**

Program Manager, Stratis Health  
Bloomington, Minnesota

Janelle has co-led Stratis Health's rural palliative care efforts since their inception in 2008, working with 23 rural Minnesota communities in developing community-based palliative care infrastructure and programs. Janelle is currently involved with the overall planning, implementation, and project management for the Rural Community-Based Palliative Care Project. She is the consultant for Washington and Wisconsin teams. Ms. Shearer has extensive experience leading quality improvement programs related to hospital, home healthcare, patient safety, and palliative care. She has varied clinical experience and holds a Master of Nursing degree from Bethel University and a BSN from the University of Iowa.

**Karl Steinberg, MD, CMD, HMDC**

Chief Medical Officer, Mariner Health Central; Medical Director, Life Care Center of Vista, Carlsbad by the Sea Care Center, Hospice by the Sea  
Oceanside, California

Nominated by the AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

Dr. Steinberg is an experienced hospice and palliative medicine specialist and long-term care geriatrician who has served as a hospice and nursing home medical director for over 20 years. He got his undergraduate degree in biochemistry and molecular biology at Harvard, then taught high school for three years in New York City before returning to medical school at The Ohio State University. He trained in family medicine at the University of California San Diego. Dr. Steinberg serves as affiliate faculty at the California State University Institute for Palliative Care and has held leadership positions in numerous professional organizations including AMDA, the National POLST Paradigm Task Force, and the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California.

**Paul E. Tatum, MD, MSPH, CMD, FAAHPM, AGSF**

Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Dell Medical School, University of Texas, Austin  
Austin, Texas

Nominated by the American Geriatrics Society

Dr. Tatum is an Associate Professor and Fellowship Director for the Palliative Medicine Fellowship. Dr. Tatum is a geriatrician and palliative care physician who has served as medical director for both hospice



and nursing homes. He is a Director-at-Large for the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), and he serves as a liaison to AAHPM's Public Policy Committee. He also serves on the Quality Committee of the American Geriatrics Society. He previously was a member of Hospice Compassus's National Medical Directory Advisory Council.

**Sarah Thirlwell, MSc, MSc(A), RN, CHPN, CHPCA, AOCNS**

Supportive Care Director, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute Hospital, Inc.  
Tampa, Florida

Sarah Thirlwell is Supportive Care Director at Moffitt Cancer Center, a participant in IHI's Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative and recognized by TJC's Advanced Certification in Palliative Care. Certified in advanced oncology, hospice and palliative nursing and administration, Sarah obtained a master of science in biochemistry and nursing at McGill University, Canada. As an educator and administrator, she partners to advance primary and specialty-level oncologic palliative care with special attention to vulnerable populations. Her work has centered around quality improvement endeavors and use of metrics to assess and enhance program performance across the spectrum of care.