

Fall 2021 Review Cycle, Geriatrics and Palliative Care

Committee Chairs

Amy J. Berman, BSN, LHD, FAAN

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 American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

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

Dr. R. Sean Morrison has served on the Measure Applications Partnership (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 the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Deborah Waldrop, PhD, LMSW, ACSW

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

Dr. Deborah Waldrop 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

Sree Battu, MD, FAAPMR, FAAHPM

Veteran Affairs Health System
Austin, Texas

Dr. Sree Battu is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, hospice and palliative medicine, and brain injury medicine. She is currently working in the Veteran Affairs Health System and has previously worked at the Cleveland Clinic and Mayo Clinic Health care systems. She has extensive experience leading quality improvement initiatives at the enterprise and local level with special interest in fall prevention.

Samira Beckwith, LCSW, FACHE, LHD

President and CEO, Hope HealthCare Services
Fort Myers, Florida

Dr. 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. Dr. 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.

Cleanne Cass, DO, FAAHPM, FAAFP

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

Dr. Cleanne Cass is the Director of Community Care and Education at the 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 American Optometric Association on the National Quality Forum (NQF) Advisory Panel which developed *A National Framework and Preferred Practices for Palliative and Hospice Care Quality* published December 2006.

Jeff Garland, DMin, Ed.S, BCC – PCHAC*

Chaplain, VNA Health Group Barnabas Health Home and Hospice & Palliative Care Center
West Orange, New Jersey

The Reverend Jeffery T. Garland has been a member and leader with the Association of Professional Chaplains® since 1997, a BCCI® board certified chaplain since 2002, and Palliative Care Hospice Advanced Certified (PCHAC) in 2019. He is a chaplain with Visiting Nurse Association Health Group Barnabas Health Home and Hospice & Palliative Care Center in West Orange, New Jersey and endorsed by the American Baptist Churches. He received his Doctor of Ministry from Drew University's School of Theology, his master divinity from the New York Theological Seminary, and is an education specialist in marriage and family therapy from Seton Hall University.

Marian Grant, DNP, ACNP-BC, ACHPN

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, 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

Rev. George 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

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 the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Cambia Health Foundation, and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation at CMS. Dr. Kamal completed his 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.

Christopher Laxton, CAE

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

Christopher E. Laxton has over 30 years of experience in healthcare nonprofit leadership. He was appointed Executive Director of 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

Dr. Kate Lichtenberg is the 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 American Academy of Family Physicians 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 Michelson, 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

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. Douglas 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. He also lectures at the state and national level on pain management, palliative care, and end-of-life care.

Laura Porter, MD

Co-Investigator, Cancer Research United Kingdom
Washington, District of Columbia

Dr. Laura Porter is a stage IV colon cancer survivor and has worked as a patient advocate and Medical Advisor for non-profit organizations since 2004. As a research advocate, she is a grant reviewer for several organizations and serves on several committees with ASCO. She is currently a Co-Investigator on an international grant through Cancer Research United Kingdom, team OPTIMISITICC which is studying the microbiome and its impact on the development and treatment of colorectal cancer.

Tracy Schroepfer, PhD, MSW

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

Dr. Tracy Schroepfer is a 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. Schroepfer is the co-director of the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW) Pre-Dissertation Fellows Program and is serving on the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care. She is also a prior member of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Palliative Care and End-of-Life Steering Committee. Dr. Schroepfer 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

Dr. Christine Ritchie 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 the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 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 almost 50 rural communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Washington to develop community-based palliative care infrastructure and programs. Ms. Shearer has extensive experience leading quality improvement programs related to hospital, home health care, patient safety, and palliative care.

Karl Steinberg, MD, CMD, HMDC, HEC-C

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

Dr. Karl 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 25 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 Shiley Haynes California State University Institute for Palliative Care. He is president of AMDA - The Society for Post- Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, vice president of National POLST, a past chair of the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, and a member of the Public Policy Committee for the American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine.

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

Dr. Paul 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, AOCNS, CHPN, CHPCA, CPHQ

Clinical Administrator, LifePath Hospice, a Chapters Health System Affiliate
Tampa, Florida

Sarah Thirlwell is Clinical Administrator of LifePath Hospice, a non-profit organization located in Hillsborough County, and an affiliate of the Chapters Health System which provides community-based care in affiliates across Florida for people with chronic and serious illness.

Sarah obtained a Master of Science in biochemistry and nursing at McGill University and earned certification in hospice and palliative nursing and administration, in advanced oncology, and as a healthcare quality professional. She has practiced in ambulatory, acute care, and hospice settings with a focus on palliative and end-of-life care as a nurse, educator, quality and regulatory specialist, and administrator in Canada and the US. Sarah has engaged in program development and research to establish standards for quality care that meets the needs of our patients, families, and communities. Her work is centered around innovation and quality improvement to enhance program performance across the spectrum of care for patients, caregivers, interdisciplinary team members, and systems.