



MAP Rural Health Technical Expert Panel

TECHNICAL EXPERT PANEL

Mariele Finucane, PhD

Senior Statistician, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dr. Finucane has published extensively on Bayesian methods for small area estimation, including first-author papers in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* and *Statistical Science*. She led the reevaluation of the scoring methodology in the CMS Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program and has applied Bayesian modeling techniques to improve the reliability and validity of the AHRQ Quality Indicators. In a past project, Dr. Finucane worked on a CMS study to develop, reevaluate, and implement hospital outcome and efficiency measures. Dr. Finucane has a PhD in Biostatistics from Harvard University.

Jeffrey Geppert, EdM, JD

Senior Research Leader, Battelle Memorial Institute
Columbus, Ohio

Mr. Geppert has over 25 years of experience in performance measurement in the fields of health care and education, supporting federal, state, and commercial organizations in the development, validation, and effective use of data on quality. He served for 10 years as the project director of the Support for Quality Indicators contract with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and for 11 years as an analyst with the Healthcare Economics program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Mr. Geppert submitted some of the first population health and outcome measures for NQF endorsement for PSI 90—one of the first composite measures to undergo the consensus development process at NQF. Currently, he leads Battelle solutions in healthcare quality improvement and Smart Hospitals.

Shuangge (Steven) Ma, PhD

Professor of Biostatistics, Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dr. Ma has extensive experience with nonparametric statistics and regularized estimation—topics that are crucial to address challenges faced by low-volume providers. Additionally, he has working knowledge of Bayesian statistics. Dr. Ma has conducted extensive research on healthcare, health insurance, outcome evaluation, health economics, and rural-urban disparities. He has published over 200 journal papers and two books and served as principal investigator and co-investigator on over 20 studies funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and others. Dr. Ma has served as Associate Editor for over 10 prestigious statistical and bioinformatics journals. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and Elected Member of the

International Statistical Institute, as well as a Biostatistics Professor at Yale University.

Jessica Schumacher, PhD

Director of Data Management and Analytics for the Surgical Collaborative of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Surgical Collaborative of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dr. Schumacher is currently the Director of Data Management and Analytics for the Surgical Collaborative of Wisconsin. In this role, she developed and manages the data platform infrastructure, develops specifications for surgical quality performance measures, and uses advanced statistical techniques to produce actionable metrics for community and academic hospitals in rural and urban settings. Dr. Schumacher completed her master's training in epidemiology, followed by her doctoral training as an AHRQ National Research Service Award (NRSA) trainee in population health with an emphasis in health services research.

Alan Zaslavsky, PhD

Professor, Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Zaslavsky is a professor at Harvard Medical School with over 30 years of research experience in small area estimation. His work is focused on estimation problems arising in quality reporting, especially for implementations of the CAHPS survey and HEDIS measures. Dr. Zaslavsky attended Harvard College, where he concentrated in government, and studied statistics at Northeastern University and MIT, where he received his doctorate.