



## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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## Final Roster

### Neurology Standing Committee – 2022

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#### Committee Chair

##### **David Tirschwell, MD, MSc**

Professor of Neurology, Medical Director of Comprehensive Stroke Care, University of Washington, Harborview Medical Center  
Seattle, Washington

Dr. David Tirschwell graduated from Cornell Medical, completed his neurology residency at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle and a stroke epidemiology fellowship including a master's degree in epidemiology. He is Professor of Neurology at the UW and Medical Director of Comprehensive Stroke Care at Harborview. He is board certified in neurology and vascular neurology. He serves as Chair of the Washington State Department of Health Emergency Cardiac and Stroke Technical Advisory Committee. Dr. Tirschwell is the principal investigator of the UW Regional Coordinating Center in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) StrokeNet, reviews clinical trial and other grants for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the American Heart Association, and performs a variety of clinical stroke research.

#### Committee Members

##### **Mary Kay Ballasiotes**

Executive Director, International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Mary Kay Ballasiotes has been an advocate for pediatric stroke for more than 20 years after learning that her third child had suffered a prenatal stroke. She started a support group for families in the Chicago area, and is now the founder and executive director for a global non-profit, International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke. She was also a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute non-profit patient reviewer and mentor for five years, providing the patient perspective for evaluating patient-centered healthcare study proposals. Ms. Ballasiotes served on the Data and Safety Monitoring Board for an NIH clinical trial for Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA) use in children and is currently a member of the University of North Carolina Stroke Patient, Family and Community Advisory Board. She continues to collaborate with the American Heart/American Stroke Association on various healthcare issues, which has included speaking at a Congressional Briefing in 2017 in support of the Affordable Care Act.

##### **Jocelyn Bautista, MD**

Assistant Professor of Neurology  
Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute Epilepsy Center  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Jocelyn Bautista is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Cleveland Clinic, and is board-certified in adult neurology and epilepsy/clinical neurophysiology. As the former Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute Quality Improvement Officer, she was responsible for directing quality improvement and outcomes reporting for multiple neurological diseases. In this role, she worked directly with quality management, accreditation, clinical risk, and performance improvement specialists. Primary interests include advancing the evaluation and treatment of epilepsy and promoting quality improvement and transparency in neurological disease. She has been involved in developing evidence-based practice guidelines for epilepsy with the American Academy of Neurology and American Epilepsy Society.

**James Burke, MD**

University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dr. James Burke is a vascular neurologist and health services researcher at the University of Michigan who completed health services research training through the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program and is currently an Anniversary Fellow at the National Academy of Medicine. His research interests include developing methods to better individualize treatment and diagnostic decisions, optimizing stroke systems of care, and understanding racial disparities in post-stroke disability. His clinical practice includes general neurology clinic at the Ann Arbor VA and inpatient neurology at the University of Michigan.

**Valerie Cotter, DrNP, AGPCNP-BC, FAANP**

Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. Valerie Cotter is an Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. She has over 25 years of experience as an adult and gerontology primary care nurse practitioner. Her scholarship focuses on care of older adults with dementia and interprofessional education. She has been actively involved in the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter Medical-Scientific Advisory Committee, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, American Geriatrics Society, and the national expert panel which developed *Older Adults: Recommended Baccalaureate Competencies and Curricular Guidelines for Geriatric Nursing Care*.

**Rebecca Desrocher, MS**

Deputy Director, Health Resources and Services Administration  
Rockville, Maryland

Rebecca Desrocher spent the early part of her career working in community-based and private practice settings conducting neuropsychological evaluations and providing cognitive rehabilitation with adult survivors of brain injury. Since joining federal service in 2004, her roles have included research grant portfolio oversight at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and serving as the Acting Director of the Health Resources and Services Administration's Traumatic Brain Injury Program. Currently, Ms. Desrocher is the Deputy Director of the Data and Evaluation Division in the Office of Quality Improvement, Bureau of Primary Health Care, at the Health Resources and Services Administration. In this role, she oversees projects that evaluate the performance and impact of the Health Center Program, which currently serves over 28 million patients.

**Bradford Dickerson, MD, MMSc**

Associate Professor of Neurology, Director of the Frontotemporal Disorders Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital  
Charleston, Massachusetts

Dr. Bradford Dickerson is an Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, Director of the Frontotemporal Disorders Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and a behavioral neurologist in the Massachusetts General Hospital Memory Disorders Unit. He is a clinical consultant in many aspects of cognitive and behavioral neurology and the use of neuroimaging and other diagnostic markers. He has been published extensively and serves on the advisory board of the Massachusetts Alzheimer's Association and the national association for frontotemporal dementia. He has published more than 70 manuscripts and book chapters and runs a brain imaging laboratory affiliated with the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging.

**Dorothy Edwards, PhD**

Director, Collaborative Center for Health Equity, University of Wisconsin Madison School of Medicine and Public Health  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dr. Dorothy Farrar Edwards is a recognized health disparities investigator with a focus on Alzheimer's disease (AD) and stroke. Dr. Edwards currently serves as the faculty director of the Collaborative Center for Health Equity at the University of Wisconsin Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Edwards has examined a variety of neurological measures and outcomes ranging from coma scales to community-based outcomes, such as health related quality of life, basic and instrumental activities of daily living, community participation, and life satisfaction in persons with stroke, Alzheimer's disease, and other dementias.

**Reuven Ferziger, MD**

Director, US Medical Affairs, Merck and Company  
Silver Spring, Maryland

Dr. Reuven Ferziger is a psychiatrist in US Medical Affairs at Merck and Company. He is currently a Director in the insomnia program and serves as the Medical Affairs North American strategy lead for the Alzheimer's Disease program. Dr. Ferziger completed medical school at Albany Medical College and psychiatry residency training at Cornell-New York Hospital. He completed fellowships in clinical research and in medical informatics and served as Instructor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Before moving to industry, he gained experience in integrated healthcare delivery systems, leading guideline development and implementation for primary care behavioral health, as Physician Champion for Psychiatry for the CareGroup Provider Services Network. His industry experience has included roles in field-based medical affairs, clinical trials, and health policy in multiple therapeutic areas within psychiatry and neurology.

**Susan Fowler, RN, PhD, CNRN, FAHA**

Associate Professor, Chamberlain College of Nursing – New Jersey  
Metuchen, New Jersey

Dr. Susan Fowler is a national nurse leader in the neuroscience, rehabilitation, and clinical nurse specialist practice. She is extensively published on findings from research investigations and clinical challenges. Dr. Fowler has been recognized for her research nationally and at the state level as well as professional engagement and leadership. She is the past president of the American Association of

Neuroscience Nurses. Dr. Fowler teaches research and health policy at two online universities and mentors PhD and DNP students in their dissertations and projects.

**Edward Jauch, MD, MS**

Chief of System Research, Mission Research Institute  
Asheville, North Carolina

Dr. Edward Jauch serves as chief of system research and director of the Mission Research Institute. Dr. Jauch was a professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, a professor in the Department of Neurology, and a faculty member of the College of Graduate Studies at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He also serves as adjunct professor of Bioengineering at Clemson University. Dr. Jauch served as the American Heart Association (AHA) Stroke Council chair and primary author for the 2013 Acute Ischemic Stroke guidelines. He coauthored 20+ flagship AHA/American Stroke Association (ASA) guidelines and scientific statements. Dr. Jauch serves on The Joint Commission Technical Advisory Committees, is the chair of the South Carolina Department of Health's Stroke Advisory Committee, and the North Carolina Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force.

**Scott Mendelson, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor and Chief Quality Officer, University of Chicago, Department of Neurology  
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Scott Mendelson graduated from the University of Chicago with an MD and PhD in 2011. He completed his neurology residency training in the Department of Neurology at the University of Chicago. He subsequently completed a vascular neurology fellowship and clinical research fellowship training with special interest in health disparities at Northwestern University. He remained at Northwestern as faculty to complete his Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality F32 research award. He returned to the University of Chicago in 2019 to begin his current role as an assistant professor and chief quality officer for the Department of Neurology.

**David Newman-Toker, MD, PhD**

Professor of Neurology and Director AI Center for Diagnostic Excellence, Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at John Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. David E. Newman-Toker is an internationally recognized clinical and health services researcher focused on innovation to improve bedside diagnosis. He is a professor of neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he leads the Division of Neuro-Visual and Vestibular Disorders, as well as the Armstrong Institute Center for Diagnostic Excellence. Dr. Newman-Toker has been the principal investigator for multiple federal and foundation grants and has published more than 125 journal articles. He is the past president of the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine and has served on multiple NQF committees related to diagnostic quality and safety.

**Kimberly Rodgers**

Patient Advocate  
Chicago, Illinois

Kimberly Rodgers is a resident of Chicago, IL. She experienced a stroke in her early 40s. She was under a lot of stress at her previous employer and was also caring for an ill father who also suffered a stroke. When she repeatedly expressed to her care teams that she was unwell, they dismissed it as a

psychological issue. She eventually had a stroke which left her with some long-term neurological effects. Her misdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis have fueled her to become involved in quality improvement work.

**Melody Ryan, PharmD, MPH**

Professor, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy  
Lexington, Kentucky

Dr. Melody Ryan received her PharmD and master of public health degrees from the University of Kentucky. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at Duke University and a neurosciences fellowship at the University of Kentucky. She is a Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Science in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky. She is the Assistant Provost for Global Health Initiatives at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Ryan is certified in geriatric pharmacy and pharmacotherapy. She is a fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Pharmacists Association.

**Michael Schneck, MD**

Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Loyola University Medical Center  
Maywood, Illinois

Dr. Michael Schneck is a professor of neurology (and neurosurgery) and vice chair of the Department of Neurology at the Loyola University Medical Center. He has extensive clinical trials and epidemiology experience particularly in the areas of cerebrovascular disease and neurocritical care. He has been involved in quality activities at his institution and national quality and guideline committee activities at the American Academy of Neurology and other organizations.

**Jane Sullivan, PT, DHS, MS**

Professor, Northwestern University  
Chicago, Illinois

Jane Sullivan is a Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. She was the coordinator of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Neurology Section Regional Course: Neurologic Practice Essentials: A Measurement Toolbox, which has been attended by over 400 rehabilitation professionals. Additionally, she was the co-chair of the APTA StrokeEDGE taskforce that developed recommendations about outcome measures for clinicians, educators, and researchers for use with individuals following stroke. Dr. Sullivan's research interests are related to community-based physical fitness following stroke and the use of electrical stimulation to enhance arm function after stroke.

**Kelly Sullivan, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Georgia Southern University  
Statesboro, Georgia

As an epidemiologist, Dr. Sullivan has focused her training and career studying neurologic conditions. She has extensive training and experience with methodology, test evaluation, measurement properties, and research designs. She has worked extensively on identifying and promoting evidence-based practice, including the use of functional and outcome measures for the neurologic patient population. She is passionate about promoting the use of measures in the care of neurologic patients. Currently, she is a member of the Guideline subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and

faculty for the online Evidence Based Medicine course.

**Max Wintermark, MD, MS**

Professor of Radiology and Chief of Neuroradiology, Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dr. Max Wintermark, professor of radiology and chief of neuroradiology at Stanford, is an expert in stroke imaging and traumatic brain injury (TBI) imaging. As the primary investigator of the CMS-funded Radiology Support, Communication, and Alignment Network (R-SCAN) program, he facilitated collaboration between radiologists and referring clinicians, optimizing imaging care, reducing unnecessary imaging exams, and lowering care costs. He participated in designing and implementing NIH common data elements from stroke, TBI, and brain tumors. Recognized for his stroke imaging expertise, he contributed to the American Heart Association's, American Society of Neuroradiology's, and American College of Radiology's stroke imaging guidelines.

**Ross Zafonte, DO**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Physical Rehab, Harvard Medical School  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Ross D. Zafonte serves as Quality and Research Director for Spaulding Rehabilitation Network and directs a broad array of efforts across the continuum of post-acute care. Dr. Zafonte's work in the area of metrics has been fostered by being a co-principal investigation on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) resource project focused on rehabilitation metrics. In addition, he helps to lead a broad research-based effort examining neurologic outcome metrics, functional status, readmission, and cost. This work has resulted in a series of papers, such as a recently published paper in the PLoS One, describing this work in the stroke population.