



National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Patient Outcomes Cardiovascular Technical Advisory Panel

Dr. Edward F. Gibbons, MD (Chair)

Associate Professor of Medicine- University of Washington School of Medicine

Edward F. Gibbons is Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington. He has been a policy member of the Puget Sound Health Alliance and is chairman of the Heart Failure Transitions initiative sponsored by the Washington Patient Safety Coalition, Foundation for Healthcare Quality. He is also former chief of Cardiology and Endocrinology at Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, where he founded programs in Antithrombotic Therapy, Preventive Cardiology, and Heart Failure, extended to "Lean Thinking" programs in reducing waste in diagnostic imaging, errors and delays in diagnosis, and enhancing early return to work and function with patient self-management.

Dr. Sana M. Al-Khatib, MD, MHS

Assistant Professor of Medicine- Duke University Medical Center

Dr Al-Khatib is a board-certified clinical electrophysiologist and is an experienced clinical researcher in cardiac arrhythmias. As a graduate of the NIH-funded Clinical Research Training Program, she is one of a few electrophysiologists nation-wide with expertise in quantitative research methods. Dr. Al-Khatib's clinical expertise is in sudden cardiac death prevention, atrial and ventricular arrhythmias, and implantable cardiac devices. She is a recipient of a NHLBI's R-01 grant titled "Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Therapy in Patients with Heart Failure" and of an American Heart Association Career Development Award. She serves on multiple national committees including the Heart Rhythm Society Quality Improvement Task Force (as a chair), the Heart Rhythm Society Health Policy committee and the ICD Registry Research and Publications committee.

Dr. Bojan Cercek, MD, Ph.D

Professor of Medicine, Director of the Coronary Care Units- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Dr. Cercek is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases, Critical Care Medicine and Adult Echocardiography. He is currently a professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He is also the Director of the Coronary Care units at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Co-Director of the Atherosclerosis Research Center at Cedars-Sinai Research Institute. Dr. Cercek is a member of the Acute Care Committee and a participant of the American Health Association Symposium for managing of the ST segment elevation MI. Currently, he is a member of the California State Task Force for the ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI). Dr. Cercek clinical research focuses on the treatment of acute coronary syndrome.

Dr. Michael Crouch, MD

Research Director- Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program

Dr. Crouch is the research director for the Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program. After earning his medical degree in Medicine from Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Crouch completed his residency training in family medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. He then completed his Master's of Science in Public Health and a Fellowship in Academic Family Practice at the University of Missouri. Dr. Crouch also completed a two-year training program in family therapy through the Menninger Clinic. His clinical interests include cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease prevention, obesity, anxiety, depression, and attention deficit disorder. Dr. Crouch's research interests include the management of hyperlipidemia, the role of statins in the prevention of coronary artery disease, the early detection of diabetes and pre-diabetes, and the effect of low literacy on patient education. Dr. Crouch is a coronary artery disease content expert for METRIC Program development by American Academy of Family Physicians for Maintenance of Certification for practicing family physicians.

Dr. Irene L. Katzan, MD, MS

Head, Enterprise Stroke Systems and Director, Center for Outcomes- Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Katzan is a board-certified vascular neurologist with master's degree in health services research. She has a long history in quality of care issues and performance measurement related to stroke and neurological disease both at an academic and community level. She is currently directs the Northeastern Ohio Stroke Outcomes Research Program, which focuses on optimizing care and outcomes of patients with stroke using quality improvement techniques and community-based research. She is also the Head, Enterprise Stroke Systems of the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute's Knowledge Program, an ambitious initiative to electronically capture clinical and administrative data for use in quality improvement activities, patient management, and research.

Dr. Richard L. Prager, MD

Professor of Surgery, Section of Cardiac Surgery- University of Michigan Medical Center

Focusing on adult cardiac and general thoracic surgery, Dr. Richard Prager began his career at Vanderbilt University as Assistant Professor in the Section of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery. He is currently the Director of the University of Michigan's Cardiovascular Center. In addition to leading the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons Quality Collaborative Initiative, Dr. Prager is Chair of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) National Adult Audit Task Force, STS Task Force on Quality Initiatives, and STS Workforce on Associate Membership. Dr. Prager's ongoing interests include adult cardiac surgery, health outcomes research, patient safety, and education.

Dr. Michael W. Rich, MD, FACC, FAGS

Professor of Medicine – Washington University School of Medicine

Michael W. Rich, MD is Professor of Medicine and Cardiology at the Washington University School of Medicine, and Director of the Cardiac Rapid Evaluation Unit at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Dr. Rich's research focuses on the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease in the aging population. Dr. Rich has participated in numerous investigator-initiated and multi-center clinical trials involving elderly cardiac patients, and he has published extensively on heart failure disease management, CHD, and cardiovascular risk reduction in the elderly. Dr. Rich also has experience serving on TAPs for the RAND Corporation and CMS.

Dr. Anton N. Sidawy, MD

Chief of Surgery Service- Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Dr. Sidawy is Chief of Surgery Service at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Professor of Surgery at both Georgetown and George Washington University Schools of Medicine. He finished his Vascular Surgery Fellowship at Boston University Hospital. Dr. Sidawy also obtained a M.P.H degree in Health Care Administration from George Washington University. Dr. Sidawy's appointments also include Director of the Vascular Surgery Residency Program of the Georgetown University/Washington Hospital Center. Dr. Sidawy serves on the Editorial Board of three journals and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Vascular Surgery, an appointment that started on January 1, 2009. Dr. Sidawy has just concluded a six-year term as a Governor of the American College of Surgeons and is currently the President of the Society for Vascular Surgery. He is also the President of the Vascular Disease Foundation, a multispecialty organization with a mission to improve the awareness of vascular disease and health.

Dr. Sarah Spinler, PharmD, FAHA, FCCP

Professor of Clinical Pharmacy- University of the Sciences in Pennsylvania

Dr. Spinier is Professor of Clinical Pharmacy University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the CRUSADE Registry, a national quality improvement initiative designed to increase the practice of evidence-based medicine for patients hospitalized with acute coronary syndromes, and is currently a member of the American College of Cardiology Improving Continuous Cardiac Care (IC3) Registry Work Group. IC3's objective is improvement in cardiovascular quality care for ambulatory patients. She also serves on the Steering Committee of the Interdisciplinary Working Group of the American Heart Association's Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Interdisciplinary Council.