

Renal Standing Committee – Fall 2022

Committee Chairs

Lorien Dalrymple, MD, MPH

Vice President, Epidemiology & Research, Fresenius Medical Care North America
El Dorado Hills, California

Dr. Lorien Dalrymple is the Vice President of Epidemiology and Research at Fresenius Medical Care North America (FMCNA). Prior to joining FMCNA, Dr. Dalrymple was an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). She is a graduate of Duke University, Colorado School of Medicine, and the University of Washington School of Public Health. She completed training in internal medicine and nephrology at the University of Washington and is board certified in nephrology. She is a member of the Kidney Care Quality Alliance (KCQA) Steering Committee and has served on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Technical Expert Panels (TEPs).

Renee Garrick, MD, FACP

Professor of Clinical Medicine, Vice Dean, and Renal Section Chief, Westchester Medical Center, New York Medical College
Hawthorne, New York

Dr. Renee Garrick is a practicing nephrologist with over 30 years' experience. She is the Executive Medical Director of Westchester Medical Center, a public benefit hospital, and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Westchester Health Network. As CMO of Westchester Health Network, she oversees quality, safety, and regulatory initiatives for the Health Network and has extensive experience with quality initiatives as they relate to patients with kidney disease. She currently serves as the medical director of a nonprofit dialysis facility and previously chaired the New York State's taskforce on dialysis care. She serves on both the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) Quality Steering Committee and the New York State Department of Health Quality Advisory Committee for Office-Based Surgery. She has served on National Quality Forum's (NQF) TEPs and has participated in the creation of patient-related outcome measures for patients with kidney disease. Additionally, she has served on the Divisional Board of the Island Peer Review Organization-End-Stage Renal Disease (IPRO-ESRD) Network of New York and is a past board member of the Renal Physicians Association, where she currently serves on the Quality, Safety & Accountability Committee. She is a member of the joint American Society of Nephrology/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (ASN/CDC) Nephrologist Transforming Dialysis Safety Workgroup and serves on a Data and Safety Monitoring Board of the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIH/NIDDK).

Committee Members

Andrew Chin, MD

Health Science Clinical Professor, University of California, Davis Medical Center
Sacramento, California

Dr. Andrew Chin is a nephrologist and professor at UC Davis School of Medicine. He is, first and

foremost, a clinician educator with extensive experience in the ambulatory and hospital kidney care settings. His role as the Nephrology Fellowship Program Director for over 10 years allows him to design and build the curriculum for the next generation of nephrologists. As a dialysis clinic medical director for 19 years, he understands the challenges faced by ESRD care providers in coordinating and managing care of a medically complex population in the modern healthcare environment.

Annabelle Chua, MD

Medical Director of Pediatric Dialysis, Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

Since completing her fellowship in 2005, Dr. Annabelle Chua has served as the Medical Director of Pheresis at Texas Children's Hospital, Medical Director of Pediatric Renal Transplantation at Levine Children's Hospital, and the Medical Director of Pediatric Dialysis at Duke University. She was involved in the SCOPE collaborative (i.e., Standardizing Care of the Pediatric ESRD Patient) from 2012–2015 and participated in CMS' TEP on Pediatric Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Adequacy in 2013. In 2017, she served as a strategy participant for the design and development of the Stiff-Person Syndrome (SPS) Nephrotoxic Acute Kidney Injury Project and continued as a subject-matter expert. Currently, she is a council member of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology.

Rajesh Davda, MD, MBA, CPE

National Medical Director, Senior Medical Director, Network Performance Evaluation and Improvement,
Cigna Healthcare
Washington, District of Columbia

Dr. Rajesh Davda is the National Medical Director for network performance and quality improvement at Cigna Healthcare and board certified in nephrology and clinical informatics with 25 years of experience. Prior to joining Cigna in 2012, Dr. Davda worked in private practice for 22 years in South Carolina and Texas as a general nephrologist, interventional nephrologist, and renal/pancreas transplant medical director. He supports the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS), CMS Stars, and Quality Rating System (QRS) programs and has served on a Steering Committee and Workgroup for the past three years for America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)/CMS Core Measures Development. He is the clinical lead for quality and value-based programs for his dialysis and chronic kidney disease (CKD) programs, including quality measurement and performance. In addition, Dr. Davda oversees a large portfolio of measures from diverse sources and evaluates competing measures for opportunities for harmonization.

Gail Dewald, BS, RN, CNN

Nephrology Nurse, American Nephrology Nurses Association
San Antonio, Texas

Gail Dewald is a certified nephrology nurse with expertise in clinical nursing management of patients with CKD. This includes expertise in regulatory compliance and quality improvement in all modalities of renal replacement therapy. She is a seasoned nursing educator with emphasis on patient safety and clinical outcomes. She serves on NKF's Renal Committee as the representative for the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA).

Stuart Greenstein, MD

Professor of Surgery, Montefiore Medical Center
Bronx, New York

Dr. Stuart Greenstein attended Harvard Medical School from 1975–1979. Those years put him on the path to becoming a surgeon. He continued with a surgical residency at New York University (NYU), followed by the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey (UMDNJ), where he also completed a research year. He continued his surgical training at the University of Pennsylvania from 1984–1985 as a Vascular Fellow, followed by a Transplant Fellowship at Downstate Medical Center from 1985–1986. His first academic job was at Hahnemann Medical Center, where he was the Acting Director of Renal Transplantation. After two years, he returned to New York and has been a member of the Transplant Division of the Montefiore Medical Center for the past 26 years.

Mike Guffey (Patient/Caregiver Perspective) (Inactive)

Business Continuity Manager, UMB Bank (Board of Directors Treasurer, Dialysis Patient Citizens)
Overland Park, Kansas

Mr. Mike Guffey serves as the Treasurer of Dialysis Patient Citizens. He experienced kidney failure while on vacation in the spring of 2008. He was an in-center hemodialysis patient until undergoing a kidney transplant eight years ago. He describes the experience of awaiting a transplant as “an interesting journey in itself.” He works as a Business Continuity Manager in the Kansas City area. His professional background provoked an interest in emergency preparedness as it relates to dialysis patients and others with special medical needs. He served as Co-Chair on the Pandemic and Infectious Diseases Committee of the Kidney Community Emergency Response Coalition.

Lori Hartwell (Patient/Caregiver Perspective)

President/Founder, Renal Support Network
Glendale, California

Ms. Lori Hartwell began her career in the renal field as a Technical Sales Specialist for Hema Metrics, LLC (formerly In-Line Diagnostics), developers of a hematocrit-controlled hemodialysis technology. She then accepted the position of Western Regional Sales Manager for Medcomp®, distributors of vascular access catheters, where she oversaw company activities in seven states. These positions allowed her to visit more than 500 freestanding and hospital-based dialysis units in 30 states. As such, she was able to develop a broad-based, multi-faceted view of the United States renal patient population and witness the importance of a mutual understanding between patients and healthcare providers in the quest for quality care. Ms. Hartwell continues to travel the world giving motivational and educational presentations to renal healthcare professionals, patients, and industry representatives, both at national nephrology conferences and at the regional/local level. Ms. Hartwell realized one of her most ambitious dreams to date when she founded the Renal Support Network (RSN) in 1993 to instill “health, happiness, and hope” into the lives of those affected by CKD. The influence of this patient-led organization, which started out as a Southern California grassroots effort, now extends across the U.S.

Frederick Kaskel, MD, PhD, FAAP, FASN

Chief of Pediatric Nephrology, Vice Chair of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center
Bronx, New York

Dr. Frederick J. Kaskel is an internationally recognized clinical investigator and educator in pediatric nephrology. He is a Professor and Vice Chairman of Pediatrics and Director of Pediatric Nephrology at

the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM) of Yeshiva University. He is a past President of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology and the Congress President of the 15th Scientific Congress of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association. He received his undergraduate bachelor's degree in biology from Monmouth College in Monmouth Illinois, as well as his doctorate in physiology and a medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He is also a Distinguished Alumnus from both institutions. He trained in pediatrics and pediatric nephrology at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, respectively, and was a recipient of an NIH National Research Service Award. Prior to returning to Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1998 to become the Director of Pediatric Nephrology, he was a tenured Professor of Pediatrics at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook.

Myra Kleinpeter, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dr. Myra A. Kleinpeter is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine and serves as Director of both the Peritoneal Dialysis Program for Tulane/Dialysis Clinics, Inc., and the Tulane Nephrology Clinic at the University Medical Center, formerly known as Charity Hospital. She formerly served as Director of the Ambulatory Clinics at the Medical Center of Louisiana in New Orleans from 1999–2005. She volunteers with the American Kidney Fund and NKF and is a member of the Louisiana Medical Association, American Medical Association, and the National Medical Association. She currently serves as a Commissioner for Hospital District A and Orleans Parish for New Orleans East Hospital and serves as Chief of Staff for the hospital.

Alan Kliger, MD

Clinical Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine
Chair, Excellence in Patient Care Advisory Committee, American Society of Nephrology
New Haven, Connecticut

Dr. Alan Kliger is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. He formerly served as Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer of the Yale New Haven Health System and Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Connecticut. He is a past President of both the Renal Physicians Association and the Forum of ESRD Networks. He chaired the Steering Committees for the NIH Frequent Hemodialysis Study and the NIH/NIDDK Consortium on Novel Therapies for Hemodialysis Patients. He is currently Chair of the Excellence in Patient Care Advisory Committee for the American Society of Nephrology. Dr. Kliger has received several teaching awards from the Yale house staff, the James Colangelo Award of the Connecticut NKF for distinguished service to the renal community, the Maureen Lundin American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) RENALIFE Award, the Renal Physicians Association Distinguished Nephrology Service Award, and the NKF J. Michael Lazarus Distinguished Lecture Award. In 2022, he was awarded the Jenny Kitsen Patient Safety Award by AAKP.

Mahesh Krishnan, MD, MPH, MBA, FASN

Group Vice President of Research and Development, DaVita, Inc.
McLean, Virginia

Dr. Mahesh Krishnan is well experienced in healthcare. He oversees external innovation, pharmacy, and clinical public policy for DaVita, Inc. He is passionately committed to improving the efficacy, efficiency, and safety of healthcare at scale to improve the lives of patients with renal disease. Additionally, Dr. Krishnan is the executive sponsor for CROWNWeb at DaVita and leads the industry wide CROWNWeb users group and Streaming Dialysis Data Standard Consortium. His prior roles have included the founding International Chief Medical Officer for DaVita, clinical lead of DaVita's research business, the Medical Affairs Team Leader for Epogen, and the Nephrology Global Health Economics Lead while at Amgen. Prior to working in the industry, he worked in clinical practice in Northern Virginia.

Karilynne Lenning, MHA, LBSW

Senior Manager, Federal Health Solutions, Telligen
West Des Moines, Iowa

Karilynne Lenning earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Iowa State University and a master's degree in healthcare administration from Des Moines University. She is currently a licensed social worker and serves on the State of Iowa Social Work Board. Ms. Lenning has 20 years of social work experience in the hospital setting, including extensive work in the inpatient renal dialysis unit and critical care setting. Ms. Lenning also has extensive experience with clinical quality measurement within various government programs, including the Partnership for Patients project, Medicare Shared Savings Program, Pioneer and Next Generation Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Programs, and the Nursing Facility Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Admissions.

Precious McCowan

National Advocate, ESRD Network
Chicago, Illinois

Precious McCowan is a national advocate in the ESRD Network. Precious is a kidney transplant patient who has worked with CMS both locally and nationally around dialysis and kidney transplant patient improvement work. She has also served as a National Faculty Member for CMS' Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI). She continues to support ATW Health Solutions Patient Network in several ways in focus groups and other projects focusing on equity and health disparities.

Andrew Narva, MD, FASN

Adjunct Associate Professor, University of the District of Columbia
Bethesda, Maryland

Dr. Andrew Narva was the Director of the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) at NIH from 2006–2019. Prior to joining NKDEP, Dr. Narva was a physician in the Indian Health Service (IHS), where he served as Chief Clinical Consultant for nephrology and Director of the IHS Kidney Disease Program. He has served as a member of the Medical Review Board of ESRD Network 15 and as Chair of the Minority Outreach Committee of NKF. He served on the NKF Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI) Workgroup on Diabetes in Chronic Diabetes and as a member of both the Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8) Expert Panel and the Workgroup on CKD for the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). Dr. Narva served as a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine Nephrology Subspecialty Board from 2014 to 2019. Dr. Narva is currently a full-time

student in a doctoral program at the University of the District of Columbia and continues to provide care as a volunteer for kidney patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Jessie Pavlinac, MS, RDN-AP, CSR, LD, FNKF, FAND

Clinical Instructor, Graduate Programs in Human Nutrition, Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Jessie Pavlinac recently retired as the Manager of Clinical Nutrition at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon, where she has practiced for over 40 years in the areas of renal and transplant nutrition. Ms. Pavlinac has taken a position as a Clinical Instructor in the Graduate School at OHSU and is also an Adjunct Instructor in Nutrition at Rutgers University. Ms. Pavlinac is a board-certified specialist in Renal Nutrition (CSR) and holds a certification in Advanced Practice in Clinical Nutrition (RDN-AP). Ms. Pavlinac is the past President of both the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the NKF Council on Renal Nutrition. Ms. Pavlinac is a frequent presenter and author in renal nutrition and outcomes measurement. She received the NKF Council Recognized Renal Dietitian Award.

Jeffrey Silberzweig, MD

Chief Medical Officer, The Rogosin Institute (New York Presbyterian)
New York, New York

Dr. Jeffrey Silberzweig graduated from SUNY at the Buffalo School of Medicine in 1989. He completed his training in internal medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center and nephrology at the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Rogosin Institute, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and Weill Cornell Medical College in 1995. He has served as the medical director of two outpatient dialysis facilities and the dialysis facilities at two hospital campuses. As the Chief Medical Officer of the Rogosin Institute, he oversees the quality of care of 1,500 patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) at nine dialysis centers in New York City.

Michael Somers, MD

Associate Professor in Pediatrics/Director, Renal Dialysis Unit, Associate Chief Division of Nephrology, American Society of Pediatric Nephrology/Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Somers previously served on NQF's Renal Measures Endorsement Committee and brings the unique perspective of the pediatric nephrologist to the table. He currently serves as the Director of Clinical Services and Medical Director of the Dialysis Unit at Boston Children's Hospital. He has special research interests in childhood nephrotic syndrome and pediatric renal replacement therapy. Dr. Somers has been both a regional and national leader in the pediatric nephrology community, active in the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology as a Councilor and Chair of several committees. He also has long-standing commitments to the boards of the ESRD Network of New England and the New England Division of NKF and has been a member of committees for the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and the American Society of Nephrology.

Cher Thomas, RDH

Patient Advocate
Galveston, Texas

Cher Thomas has been a registered dental hygienist since 1993. In 1996, her kidneys failed, and she became a renal transplant recipient in 1999. She has been active with the Renal Support Network since 2004 as a patient advocate. Ms. Thomas utilizes her experience with peritoneal dialysis and organ transplantation to explore the relationship between oral and renal health. Her experience as an allied healthcare provider and a renal patient gives her a unique perspective on renal care.

Jennifer Vavrinchik, MSN, RN, CNN

Chief Operating Officer, National Dialysis Accreditation Commission
Lisle, Illinois

Jennifer Vavrinchik is an advanced nephrology nurse practitioner with over 30 years of experience in dialysis. She is a Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of the National Dialysis Accreditation Commission, the first accreditation organization approved for dialysis. Ms. Vavrinchik has an extensive background in clinical operations and management, as well as regulatory and compliance. Her special interest is ESRD regulations and patient safety, and she is actively working with the International Society for Nephrology to develop global standards. She belongs to ANNA, NKF, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, and Sigma Theta Tau.

Roberta Wager, MSN, RN (*Patient/Caregiver Perspective*)

Renal Care Coordinator, American Association of Kidney Patients
Boerne, Texas

Ms. Roberta Wager was diagnosed with pyelonephritis at birth and was in and out of the hospital every three months, being treated for urinary tract infections until the age of 12. At 12 years of age, Ms. Wager underwent a surgical procedure that stopped the reflux to the kidneys. At the age of 23, she was told she had two months to live. Death was not a choice—she went the route of hemodialysis and then transplant. Her first kidney transplant took place in 1983, and her second kidney transplant took place in 1998. She learned through her journey that to succeed in life with a chronic disease, she had to be engaged in her personal healthcare. One way to do that was to be involved in the medical community. She graduated from nursing school in 1993 and began her nursing practice in the nephrology field. In May 2004, she graduated with her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). Besides going to school and becoming a nurse, Ms. Wager volunteers in the local, state, and national renal community. “I have been blessed with many family and friends to support my journey. These blessings have allowed me to ‘pay it forward.’”

John Wagner, MD, MBA

Director of Service, Associate Medical Director, Kings County Hospital Center
Brooklyn, New York

Since 1984, Dr. John Wagner has been a board-certified nephrologist on the faculty of various academic medical centers, such as NYU, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Hofstra-North Shore Long Island Jewish (NSLIJ) School of Medicine, and SUNY-Downstate. For more than 20 years, he served as Medical Director of the dialysis programs based at LIJ Medical Center in New Hyde Park, New York, while serving in various capacities with ESRD Network 2, a federally contracted ESRD quality improvement organization. He is President-Elect of the Forum of ESRD Networks and an Emeritus Director of IPRO,

both NQF member organizations. He has served on a TEP focused on ESRD measures, served as a site leader in his current organization's ACO, and is presently an associate medical director of a government-owned essential hospital.