

# NQF

## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

### Renal Endorsement Maintenance Steering Committee Member Roster

#### **Peter Crooks, MD (Co-Chair)**

Associate Medical Director for Operations  
Southern California Permanente Medical Group

Peter Crooks, MD, is associate medical director for operations at the Southern California Permanente Medical Group and senior consultant to its renal business group. In addition to his direct patient care activities at Kaiser Permanente, he has been interested in improving outcomes for patients with kidney disease. Dr. Crooks served as physician director for the Southern California Kaiser Permanente Renal Program from 1997 until 2009. Before that, he was medical director for the Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Managed Care Demonstration project and medical director of Optimal Renal Care, a national renal disease management company, now merged with Renaissance Health Care, where he served on its Medical Advisory Board. He was a member of the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative advisory board and served as co-chair of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Steering Committee to develop National Voluntary Consensus Standards for ESRD.

#### **Kristine Schonder, PharmD (Co-Chair)**

Assistant Professor  
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

Kristine Schonder, PharmD, is a clinical pharmacist in transplant ambulatory care and assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy. Dr. Schonder's clinical practice focuses on kidney and liver transplantation and end stage renal disease (ESRD) in the post-transplant clinics at the Starzl Transplantation Institute, where she provides pharmaceutical care and patient education in conjunction with the transplant team. Her research is on the long-term consequences and outcomes associated with kidney transplantation and ESRD. Her specific areas of interest include anemia, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, osteoporosis, and medication adherence. Dr. Schonder also teaches the nephrology and transplant-related content in the PharmD curriculum at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy.

**Constance Anderson, BSN, MBA**  
Vice President of Clinical Operations  
Northwest Kidney Centers

Constance Anderson, BSN, MBA, is vice president of clinical operations for Northwest Kidney Centers. Ms. Anderson has more than 35 years of experience in renal care and currently manages 400 staff that provide dialysis services in centers and homes. In her current role, she works closely with staff and nephrologists on quality measurement and has significant expertise in implementation and feasibility matters related to end stage renal disease (ESRD) performance measurement. Ms. Anderson is a member of the Kidney Care Partners Quality committee and served as Northwest Kidney Centers' liaison during testing of the Kidney Care Quality Alliance's performance measures.

**Jeffrey Berns, MD**  
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Jeffrey Berns, MD, is professor of medicine and pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and associate chief of University of Pennsylvania's renal-electrolyte and hypertension division. Dr. Berns' clinical and research interests are in the areas of chronic kidney disease, renal pharmacology, and critical care nephrology. He is the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative's vice-chair for clinical practice guidelines and commentaries, a member of the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes anemia workgroup, and a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine nephrology subspecialty board. Dr. Berns went to medical school and completed residency training in internal medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and his fellowship in nephrology at Yale University.

**Lorien Dalrymple, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Professor  
University of California Davis Medical Center

Lorien Dalrymple, MD, MPH, is assistant professor at University of California Davis Medical Center and a board-certified nephrologist whose research focuses on long-term outcomes of end stage renal disease (ESRD), especially infectious and inflammatory complications of hemodialysis. Her current research is directly pertinent to the mission of this Steering Committee, as she is trying to develop a stronger evidence base for quality standards and measures in hemodialysis care. Her combination of clinical expertise, rigorous research training, and in-depth knowledge of quality measurement will be uniquely valuable to the Steering Committee.

**Andrew Fenves, MD**

Director of Renal Division  
Baylor Health Care System

Andrew Fenves, MD, is a nephrologist; director of the renal division, a Ralph Tompsett professor of medicine, and medical director of the division of nephrology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, TX. Additionally, he is a clinical professor of medicine at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He is an elected member/fellow of the American Osler Society, Texas Club of Internists, and American Society of Nephrologists. Dr. Fenves is active in clinical research and has authored 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and 11 book chapters in nephrology and related topics. Dr. Fenves has been recognized among Best Doctors in Dallas, Texas Super Doctors, and Best Doctors in America.

**Michael Fischer, MD, MSPH**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Department of Veterans Affairs, University of Illinois

Michael Fischer, MD, MSPH, MBA, is a practicing nephrologist and health services researcher. Dr. Fischer has a clinical and research background in end stage renal disease (ESRD) and chronic kidney disease (CKD). He is a member of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois Scientific Advisory Board, American Society of Nephrology Career Development Grants Review Committee, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) CKD Performance Measures Working Group. In this latter role, he is collaborating with VA Office of Informatics and Analytics to develop formal CKD performance measures in VA. He is principal and co-investigator of National Institutes of Health and VA funded research studies and author of numerous publications in these areas.

**Jerry Jackson, MD**

Nephrologist  
Nephrology Associates, PC

Jerry Jackson, MD, is a nephrologist with over 35 years of experience with specific expertise in vascular access-related infections, quality improvement, hemodialysis facility management and patient outcomes, and chronic kidney disease (CKD) management. Dr. Jackson serves as medical director for two hemodialysis clinics and a vascular access center. He also works as an interventional nephrologist. For the past 15 years, he has served as a volunteer with Network 8 and chairs the Medical Review Board. Dr. Jackson's work with Network 8 provided insight into the benefit of performance measurement in dialysis facilities and how that data can be used in quality improvement efforts.

**Frederick Kaskel, MD, PhD**

Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics and Director of Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Children's Hospital at Montefiore

Frederick Kaskel, MD, PhD, has provided a leadership role in pediatric nephrology at the regional, national, and international levels, which has afforded him the opportunity to represent both academic and patient-oriented communities. Dr. Kaskel's relationship with IPRO End Stage Renal Disease of New York Medical Advisory Board, the Food and Drug Association Cardiovascular and Renal Advisory Committee, the Kidney and Urology Foundation of America, the Cystinosis Research Network, Nephcure Foundation, and the National Institute Health/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Disease National Kidney Disease Education Program has resulted in outreach initiatives to the communities at risk for renal disease and an appreciation of the impact of kidney treatments on their quality of life and morbidity and mortality.

**Myra Kleinpeter, MD, MPH**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Tulane University School of Medicine

Myra Kleinpeter, MD, MPH, is an associate professor of clinical medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine, serves as the peritoneal dialysis program director for Tulane/Dialysis Clinic Inc., and director of Tulane nephrology clinic at Louisiana State University Interim Public Hospital, formerly Charity Hospital. Dr. Kleinpeter is on the Board of Trustees for the American Kidney Fund and serves as vice-chair of medical affairs. She is president-elect of the National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana. Dr. Kleinpeter has interests in chronic disease management, continuing medical education, quality improvement, and healthcare for underserved populations, with research activities in chronic kidney disease care management and health literacy. Dr. Kleinpeter has participated in the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health System's 2003 Physician Leadership Institute.

**Alan Klinger, MD**

Chief Medical Officer and Chief Quality Officer/Clinical Professor  
Hospital of St. Raphael/Yale University School of Medicine

Alan Klinger is the chief medical officer and chief quality officer at the Hospital of St. Raphael and clinical professor of medicine at Yale University. Dr. Klinger is an expert in the areas of stage 4 chronic kidney disease (CKD) transition to end stage renal disease (ESRD), renal replacement therapy, and anemia management. He is past president of the Renal Physicians Association and Forum of ESRD Networks. He chairs the steering committee for the National Institutes of Health frequent hemodialysis study. Dr. Klinger received the James Colangelo Award of the Connecticut National Kidney Foundation for distinguished service to the renal community and the Maureen Lundin Renalife Award from the American Association of Kidney Patients.

**Lisa Latts, MD, MSPH, MBA**

Vice President, Programs in Clinical Excellence  
WellPoint, Inc.

Lisa Latts, MD, MSPH, MBA, is vice president of programs in clinical excellence for WellPoint (WLP) and is responsible for directing WLP's efforts to improve the quality of care its members receive. Dr. Latts responsibilities include initiatives to measure and improve WLP's innovative member and state health index programs and strategies to improve the delivery of healthcare network providers, such as patient-centered medical homes and programs to address health inequities. Dr. Latts's team manages WLP's accreditation and quality compliance strategy and works together with physician organizations to improve collaboration. She is on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's National Advisory Council and the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Committee on Performance Measurement and its Standards Committee. Dr. Latts also co-chairs the National Quality Forum's Health Plan Council.

**Kathe LeBeau**

Patient Advocacy Project Manager  
Renal Support Network

Kathe LeBeau was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in 2004 and started home hemodialysis in April 2007. Ms. LeBeau is currently awaiting a transplant. As a patient who understands living with CKD she stated, "It is very important to have the patient perspective represented as these measures are reviewed going forward. As a very active patient advocate in the renal community, I would like to be part of that representation. I have been present for and participated in a number of educational and public policy forums regarding this issue and bring my personal experience as a kidney dialysis patient to the table."

**Stephen D. McMurray, MD**

Vice President, Integrated Care Management Services  
Davita

Stephen McMurray, MD graduated from Indiana University in 1969 and from Indiana University Medical School in 1972. He finished his residency and nephrology fellowship at Indiana University Medical Center. He practiced nephrology in Fort Wayne, Indiana for 31 years. He was a member of Indiana Medical Associates a 35-member multi-specialty group and is past president of their board. He was one of the founders Renal Care Group served on their board until their acquisition by Fresenius Medical Care. He is a past member of the Renal Physicians Association Board and has served on the Network (9, 10) medical review board for many years. Dr McMurray is very active in developing processes to improve patient care and outcomes. He currently is VP, Clinical Integrated Care Management for DaVita.

**Joseph V. Nally, Jr., MD**

Director, Center for Chronic Kidney Disease  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Joseph Nally, Jr., MD, is a board certified nephrologist and director of Center for Chronic Kidney Disease at Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Nally is the principal investigator of Cleveland Clinic Foundation-Internal Review Board which approved Development of a Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Registry. This registry involves more than 57,000 patients with CKD within the Cleveland Clinic Health System. Dr. Nally's long-term commitment to the National Kidney Foundation has evolved to his current position as vice chair of the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative Public Policy Committee.

**Andrew Narva, MD (Ex Officio)**

Director, National Kidney Disease Education Program  
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health

Andrew Narva, MD, is the director of the National Kidney Disease Education Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Before joining NIH, Dr. Narva served as the chief clinical consultant for nephrology for the Indian Health Service, a public health service agency that provides healthcare to over one million American Indians and Alaska Natives. He has served as a member of the Medical Review Board of ESRD Network 15 and as chair of the Minority Outreach Committee of the National Kidney Foundation. He serves on the National Kidney Foundation Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative work group on chronic diabetes and is a member of the Eighth Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure Expert Panel. In 2002, Dr. Narva was recognized by the Indian Health Service National Council of Clinical Directors as Physician Leader of the Year and by the U.S. Public Health Service as the Clinical Physician of the Year. In 2003, he received the United States Public Health Service Distinguished Service Medal, the highest recognition awarded to commissioned officers. Dr. Narva is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology.

**Jessie Pavlinac, MS, RD, CSR, LD**

Director, Clinical Nutrition  
Oregon Health & Science University

Jessie Pavlinac, MS, RD, CSR, LD, is director of clinical nutrition at the department of food and nutrition at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where she has practiced renal and transplant nutrition for over 30 years. Ms. Pavlinac is a senior instructor for the OHSU nutrition and dietetic program and is a board certified specialist in renal nutrition with a certificate in healthcare management. Ms. Pavlinac is immediate past president of the American Dietetic Association and a past president of the National Kidney Foundation Council on Renal Nutrition. She is a frequent presenter and author in renal nutrition and outcomes measurement and received the National Kidney Foundation Council Recognized Renal Dietitian Award.

**Michael Somers, MD**

Clinical Director, Division of Nephrology  
Children's Hospital Boston

Michael Somers, MD, currently serves as the director of clinical services and medical director of the dialysis unit at Children's Hospital Boston. He has special research interests in childhood nephritic syndrome and pediatric continuous 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 longstanding commitments to boards for the End Stage Renal Disease Network of New England, New England Division of the National Kidney Foundation, and was a member of the United Network for Organ Sharing pediatric transplantation committee.

**Ruben Velez, MD**

President/CEO  
Dallas Nephrology Associates

Ruben Velez, MD, has over 25 years of experience as a nephrologist, with specific expertise in anemia management, vascular access-related infections, and renal transplantation. Dr. Velez serves as the president and CEO of Dallas Nephrology Associates. He is the president-elect of the Renal Physicians Association and has served on National Kidney Foundation's Board of Directors since 2007. Dr. Velez also serves on the board for Methodist Hospitals of Dallas and as medical director for Waxahachie and Pleasant Run dialysis centers. Additionally, he served on the Texas Department of Health's End Stage Renal Disease Taskforce and is current co-chairman of the Medical Review Board of ESRD Network 14.

**Roberta Wager, RN, MSN**

Regional Treatment Options Specialist  
Fresenius Medical Care

Roberta Wager, RN, MSN, is the regional treatment options specialist with Fresenius Medical Care and serves as the immediate past president of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP). As a patient with chronic kidney disease for the past 53 years, Ms. Wager has been on in-center hemodialysis and is currently a two-time kidney transplant recipient. She completed her bachelor's of science in nursing in May 1993 and her master's of science in nursing in May 2004. Since graduation, she has practiced in the renal community as a peritoneal dialysis nurse, hemodialysis nurse, staff educator, and presently a nurse educator. She has served on several patient and professional organizations and committees promoting and advocating for renal patients. Ms. Wager serves on the Board of Directors of AAKP and is also a member of the association.

**Janet Welch, PhD, RN**

Professor

Indiana University, School of Nursing

Janet Welch, PhD, RN, is a professor at Indiana University, School of Nursing, and conducts research to facilitate self-management of diet and fluid limitations among adults receiving hemodialysis. Outcomes from her work include clinical assessment tools, theoretically driven research instruments, and an innovative electronic self-monitoring device that provides instant feedback to patients about their intake, linking the feedback to patient's individual dietary prescriptions. Dr. Welch is a national leader in nephrology nursing and helps practicing nurses improve care for individuals with chronic kidney disease. She provides leadership to several organizations resulting in recommendations for practice and strategies for helping nurses implement research evidence.

**Harvey Wells**

Dialysis Patient Advocate

Harvey Wells first learned he had reduced kidney function when he was 18 years old after a physical examination while trying to enroll in the United States Navy. His kidneys never presented a problem until he was older and was suffering from very high blood pressure. Through improving his diet, Mr. Wells was able to avoid kidney failure for some time, eventually needing to begin dialysis treatments to survive. The same year he started dialysis he received a kidney transplant from his wife that lasted for eight years before failing. He began traditional dialysis at a treatment center three times a week lasting four and a half hours each session. Over the last three years, Mr. Wells has travelled over 60,000 miles visiting over 150 dialysis centers in 38 states trying to increase awareness and educate renal patients and professionals on home dialysis. He states, "Helping others change their lives as dramatically as home dialysis has changed mine is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. People need to know that home care is not just an option, it is a better option and can be the solution to an otherwise debilitating illness."