



## **Surgery Standing Committee, Fall 2019**

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### **Committee Chairs**

#### **Lee Fleisher, MD**

Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology, University of Pennsylvania/American Society of Anesthesiologists  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Lee A. Fleisher is the Robert D. Dripps Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine. His research focuses on perioperative cardiovascular risk assessment and reduction and measurement of quality of care, and he has received numerous federal, industry, and foundation grants related to these subjects. Dr. Fleisher has published more than 225 articles, chapters, books, and abstracts. He is a member of the CSAC, Administrative Board of the Council of Academic Specialties of the AAMC, and the Institute of Medicine.

#### **William Gunnar, MD, JD**

Director, National Center for Patient Safety, Veterans Health Administration  
Ann Arbor, MI

On December 9, 2018, William Gunnar, MD, JD, was appointed to the position of Executive Director, VHA National Center for Patient Safety. In this role, he provides oversight to the VHA National Patient Safety Program with goals to minimize harm, evaluate adverse events and close calls, and foster a just culture across the VHA. His prior role (2008-2018) was VHA National Director of Surgery with operational oversight for 137 VHA surgical programs, authority for VHA surgical services policy, and the VA Surgical Quality Improvement Program (VASQIP). Dr. Gunnar has the following degrees: BA/MS (Northwestern, 1979), MD (Northwestern, 1983), and JD (Loyola Chicago, 2006). He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and was appointed Clinical Professor of Surgery, George Washington University.

### **Committee Members**

#### **Ashrith Amarnath, MD**

Patient Safety Officer, Sutter Valley Medical Foundation  
Sacramento, California

Dr. Amarnath is experienced and certified in healthcare quality, patient safety, and has a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital and healthcare industry as well as government. He is trained in general surgery with a background in trauma and acute care surgery. His skills are focused in quality and performance improvement, cultural transformation, and establishing high reliability in healthcare.

**Kenya Brown, LCSW-C**

Lead Social Worker, Fresenius Medical Care  
Essex, Maryland

Kenya Brown is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 25 years of experience providing counseling and therapeutic interventions in various settings and working with severely emotionally disturbed children, adolescents, adults, couples, and individuals living with chronic disease. Currently, Mrs. Brown is a medical social worker with oversight in three states. She also serves as the President of the Counsel of Nephrology Social Workers Maryland chapter.

**TeMaya Eatmon**

Atlanta, Georgia

TeMaya Eatmon was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 36 and had a total of eight surgeries within six months. Ms. Eatmon believes that the initial surgery is the reason she is alive today as a strong and confident patient advocate. Since that time, she has committed to make a difference in how cancer is researched, treated, and prevented among minority/young women.

TeMaya became involved both locally and nationally with key organizations that best aligned with her advocacy efforts. Her local involvement includes being a past board member for It's The Journey, Inc., serving on the Hadassah Check It Out! Speakers Bureau. She also participates with her local health system, Northside Hospital and their Network of Hope. She participates locally and nationally for Susan G. Komen as an Advocate in Science, African-American Health Equity Advisory Committee, and Sisters of Promise. Her commitment, dedication, and passion have not gone unnoticed as the Atlanta Braves recognized her with their Diamond of Hope Award, and the Atlanta Falcons also recognized her with their Dazzle and Dine program. She was also recognized by Ford Motor Company and chosen as a Model of Courage. As a young breast cancer survivor, Ms. Eatmon believes she can bring a diverse, fresh, perspective and voice to the Committee that will inevitably impact change.

**Elisabeth Erikson, MD, MPH, FACOG, FACS**

Interim Chair, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dr. Erikson is the interim chair of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and service line leader of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. She holds academic appointments as an associate professor in both the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice. She received her medical degree from the University of Illinois and her master's in public health from Brown University.

Dr. Erikson is a practicing board-certified surgeon in the subspecialty of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery and the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology. Her current research projects include claims-data linkage analyses of population-based cohort studies to explore health care utilization of older women as well as treatment seeking behavior and needs. Dr. Erikson also has a strong focus on quality improvement and outcomes in gynecologic surgery. She also serves as an American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) committee chair, quality council member, and national advisor of the Quality Improvement and Outcomes Research Network facilitating the collection of data on variation in practice patterns and outcomes for the surgical treatment of pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence across nine different health systems in the United States and Canada.

**Frederick Grover, MD**

Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Aurora, Colorado

Dr. Frederick L. Grover is a Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Past Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Colorado. From 1991 to 2003, Dr. Grover was Professor and Head of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Chief of Surgical Services at the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He belongs to numerous professional organizations, actively serving in organizational leadership and committee activities, including but not limited to, a term as President of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, a term on the NQF Board of Directors and on the United Network for Organ Sharing Board of Directors. Dr. Grover has authored or co-authored 296 scientific papers, many of which are in the area of utilizing surgical databases for quality improvement, and he is an advocate for physician involvement in quality improvement and healthcare policy development.

**John Handy, MD**

Thoracic Surgeon, American College of Chest Physicians  
Portland, Oregon

Dr. John Handy's professional evolution over three decades includes general surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, transplantation, and specialized thoracic surgery. He established programs where none previously existed (lung/heart-lung transplant, thoracic oncology, thoracic surgery) or took over programs which were in trouble (VA cardiac surgery). Thus, early in his career he developed interest in defining, implementing, and monitoring quality in clinical care. As a program director, one has responsibility for understanding and stewardship of the cost of care. Further, colleagues must be converted to the cause. His scope has steadily grown from institution, to state, and now to a broad region of the United States. NQF participation is a natural progression.

**Mark Jarrett, MD, MBA**

Chief Quality Officer, Associate Chief Medical Officer, North Shore-LIJ Health System  
Great Neck, New York

Dr. Mark Jarrett is currently Chief Quality Officer for the North Shore-LIJ Health System. He also serves as Associate Chief Medical Officer for the system. He previously served as Chief Medical Officer and DIO at Staten Island University Hospital as well as Director of Rheumatology at SIUH for 27 years. He was senior and founding partner of a rheumatology practice for 30 years. Dr. Jarrett is Professor of Medicine at the Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine. He has extensive research experience, and has been published on the subject of the immune response in systemic lupus erythematosus. He is board certified in internal medicine, rheumatology, and geriatrics, and he is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Rheumatology.

**Vilma Joseph, MD, MPH, FASA**

Professor of Anesthesiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center  
Bronx, New York

Dr. Vilma Joseph is a physician anesthesiologist and Professor of Anesthesiology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center. She completed her anesthesiology residency, medical degree, and master of public health at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Joseph served as the President of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA) in 2018-2019 and is an active member of several committees and organizations related to public health, professional diversity, and quality management at the local, state, and national levels. Her research interests include health disparities during the perioperative period.

**Clifford Ko, MD, MS, MSHS, FACS, FASCRS**

Director, Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care, American College of Surgeons Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, UCLA Schools of Medicine and Public Health  
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Clifford Ko is the Director of the Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care at ACS. He oversees all the quality improvement and accreditation/verification programs and activities of the division, including those related to bariatric, cancer, pediatric, and trauma surgeries. He also oversees the Surgeon Specific Registry (SSR), the Coalition for Quality in Geriatric Surgery (CQGS), and the Improving Surgical Care and Recovery (ISCR) project informed for enhanced recovery protocols. Clinically, he is a double board-certified surgeon with a practice focusing on patients with colorectal cancer. At UCLA, he is Professor of Surgery, and Professor of Health Services at the UCLA Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Ko has published over 400 manuscripts and is recognized as one of the Best Doctors in America.

**Barbara Levy, MD, FACOG, FACS**

Vice President, Health Policy, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Washington, DC

Dr. Barbara Levy has over 25 years of experience with direct surgical and primary care, research, and training. She oversees ACOG's Office of Global Women's Health programs, the Voluntary Review of Quality of Care, Safety Certification for Outpatient Practice Excellence for Women's Health, American Indian/Alaska Native Health Program, Health Economics, Strategic Health Care Initiatives department and programs for Maternal Mortality and Fetal & Infant Mortality. Prior to ACOG, Dr. Levy was in private practice and medical director of Women's Health and Breast Center and Women's and Children's Services for the Franciscan Health System in Tacoma, WA.

**Shawn Rangel, MD, MSCE**

Senior Surgical Advisor, Quality and Safety, Boston Children's Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Rangel is the Senior Surgical Advisor for Quality & Safety and Weitzman Endowed Chair for Quality & Safety at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Rangel has chaired several national committees with the charge of advancing the agenda of high-quality surgical care through measurement and process improvement, including the APSA's Quality & Safety Committee, AAP Section on Surgery's Committee for the Delivery of Surgical Care, and ACS Children's Surgery Data Steering Committee, among others. Dr. Rangel currently serves on the editorial boards of *JAMA Pediatrics*, *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*, and is associate editor for *Pediatric Quality & Safety*.

**Christopher Saigal, MD, MPH**

Professor, UCLA  
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Christopher Saigal is a Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. An R-01-funded health services researcher, Dr. Saigal currently is supported as PI for over \$6 million in NIH grant funding. His research focuses on the nexus of quality of care, access to care, and practice pattern trends in urology. His clinical focus is in urologic oncology, and he practices at both the Westwood and Santa Monica UCLA campuses. Dr. Saigal was an AUA Gallagher Health Policy Scholar and is very active on many AUA health policy and quality committees.

**Salvatore T. Scali, MD, FACS, RPVI**

Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Florida-Gainesville  
Gainesville, Florida

Dr. Salvatore T. Scali practices at both Shands Hospital—University of Florida, Gainesville, FL and the Malcolm Randall V.A. Medical Center. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from University of New Hampshire and completed medical school at Georgetown University. He completed both a general surgery and vascular surgery fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA and the Harvard-Longwood Vascular Research Program, Boston, MA and he also trained at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH. Dr. Scali is active in the Vascular Quality Initiative and the Society for Vascular Surgery PSO. He has focused his career on clinical outcomes research within the field of Vascular Surgery. A variety of clinical topics in modern vascular practice have captured his interest, including thoracic outlet syndrome, infrainguinal arterial reconstruction, carotid stenting, and complex aneurysm disease.

**Allan Siperstein, MD**

Chairman Endocrine Surgery, Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Allan Siperstein is the Chair of Endocrine Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He is Program Director for the General Surgery Residency and Endocrine Surgery Fellowship, and he co-directs the Surgical Outcomes Fellowship. He obtained medical degree at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School at Dallas and general surgery residency/endocrine surgery training at UCSF. Since 1999 he has been a staff member at the Cleveland Clinic. He has had a long interest in quality and patient safety. He has experience in improving compliance with the Surgical Care Improvement Project Measures and is Physician Champion for the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program.

**Alex Sox-Harris, PhD, MS**

Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Alex Sox-Harris, PhD, MS, is an Associate Professor in the Stanford Department of Surgery, and a Research Career Scientist at the Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i) at VA Palo Alto. He is a health services researcher with programs of research focused on healthcare quality measurement, substance use disorder treatment, and treatment decisions for conditions in which surgery is a major treatment option. He has published over 195 scientific papers, has had continuous federal research funding for over 15 years, and is committed to conducting research that directly informs healthcare policy, delivery, and outcomes.

**Joshua D. Stein, MD, MS**

Associate Professor, University of Michigan, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences,  
Department of Health Management & Policy, Director, Center for Eye Policy and Innovation  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dr. Stein is a board-certified ophthalmologist and fellowship-trained glaucoma specialist with 10 years of experience caring for patients with ocular diseases. In addition, he is a health services researcher who has published extensively on topics including eye service utilization, safety, and outcomes of ocular surgical procedures, costs of eye care, quality of life of patients with ocular diseases, and the cost-effectiveness of different interventions for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration. His training includes a master's degree in evaluative clinical sciences from Dartmouth College and a health policy fellowship at the Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation.

**Larissa Temple, MD**

Colorectal Service, Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
New York, New York

Dr. Larissa Temple is a colorectal surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the colorectal survivorship clinic. Dr. Temple is funded and published extensively in outcomes including patient decision making, patient satisfaction, practice variation, and quality of life. Dr. Temple is an active member of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and co-chairs the Quality and Safety Committee.

**Kevin Wang, MHA**

Senior Director, Performance Programs, Hospital for Special Surgery  
New York, New York

Kevin Wang is the Senior Director for Performance Programs at the Center for the Advancement of Value in Musculoskeletal Care at Hospital for Special Surgery. His expertise includes the use of improvement science to drive change management, process improvement, and deliver better outcomes around quality, safety, and value. Kevin has experience around designing commercial, quality-based programs with major insurers, including bundled payments and pay-for-performance initiatives. Before joining the department, he previously held roles as the Director, Quality & Value at Columbia University Irving Medical Center Department of Orthopedic Surgery.