



NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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Final Roster

Fall 2021 Review Cycle, Surgery

Committee Chairs

Alex Sox-Harris, PhD, MS

Co-chair

Professor, S-SPIRE Center, Department of Surgery, Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dr. Alex Sox-Harris is a 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 focused on healthcare quality measurement, clinical prediction modeling, and implementation science. He has published over 230 scientific papers, has had continuous federal research funding for over 18 years, and is committed to conducting research that directly informs healthcare policy, delivery, and outcomes.

Vilma Joseph, MD, MPH, FASA

Co-chair

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.

Committee Members

Ashrith Amarnath, MD, MS-SHCD

Medical Director, Covered California
Sacramento, California

Dr. Amarnath is a physician leader with a focus on healthcare delivery reform, quality, and health equity. He is trained in General Surgery with a background in Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. He is well regarded for his skills in performance improvement, change management, and high reliability in healthcare with a demonstrated history of working in health policy, innovation, as well as within hospital and healthcare systems. He is currently serving as Medical Director for Covered California, the health benefits exchange for the State of California. In this role he oversees the clinical unit that acts as a technical advisor on medical policy and standards issues for health plan contracting, directs the medical, behavioral health, and clinical programs on quality and effective care delivery for insurance services, and

drives continuous improvements. In addition, he leads clinical informatics work which uses health plan data to provide actionable information supporting operations and policy to improve care, lower costs, and enhance consumer health. He sits on the Board of Directors for Cal Hospital Compare and Technical Expert Panels for the National Quality Forum and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He held prior roles as the Patient Safety Officer for Sutter Valley Medical Foundation and Medical Consultant for the California Department of Health Care Services.

Sherry Bernardo, DNP, CRNA

Director of Anesthesia Quality and Practice, Atrium Health
Charlotte, North Carolina

Sherry Bernardo is a practicing certified registered nurse anesthetist and the director of anesthesia quality and practice in a large Level I trauma institution. She works with the North Carolina Board of Nursing to review practice standards for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists to identify practice opportunities, gaps, and process improvement plans. Sherry currently serves as Chair of the AANA Practice Committee to guide CRNA National Practice.

Richard D'Agostino, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery Specialist, Lahey Clinic Medical Center
Burlington, Massachusetts

Dr. Richard S. D'Agostino has practiced cardiothoracic surgery since 1987, both in the academic and private arenas. His clinical focus is adult cardiac surgery with expertise in non-cardiac thoracic surgery. He has been a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) Adult Cardiac Surgery Database Taskforce since 2008 and served as chair of that taskforce from 2015 to 2021. Dr. D'Agostino is a former member of the STS Workforce on National Databases and currently serves on the STS Aortic Surgery Database and Patient-Reported Outcomes taskforces. His clinical research interest is in database applications, surgical risk stratification, and quality measurement.

TeMaya Eatmon

Atlanta, Georgia

TeMaya Eatmon was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 36 and has 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 then, she has committed to make a difference in how cancer is researched, treated, and prevented among minority/young women. Ms. Eatmon 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.

Michael Firstenberg, MD, FACC, FAIM

Chief of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, The Medical Center of Aurora
Aurora, Colorado

Dr. Michael Firstenberg is the chief of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at The Medical Center of Aurora. He attended Case Western Reserve University Medical School, received his general surgery training at University Hospitals in Cleveland, and completed fellowships in thoracic surgery at The Ohio State University and The Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Firstenberg is a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American Association of Thoracic Surgeons, and the American College of Cardiology. He has authored over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts, abstracts, and book chapters. He has edited several textbooks on topics including medical leadership, patient safety and extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation.

Linda Groah, MSN, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC FAAN

CEO-Executive Director, Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Denver, Colorado

Linda Groah has been the CEO/executive director of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) since March 2007. She has been actively involved in surgical patient care throughout her career. In 2011, she was named by Becker's as one of the top 10 Leaders in Clinical Quality. In 2013, 2015, and 2017, she was identified by Becker's as one of 50 experts leading patient and staff safety.

Miklos Kertai, MD, PhD

Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt
Brentwood, Tennessee

Dr. Miklos Kertai is a professor in the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology. He is a trained cardiac anesthesiologist and critical care specialist. He holds a MSc in public health nutrition and a PhD in epidemiology. Dr. Kertai serves as chair of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA)/STS Database Committee and as a member of the SCA Quality and Safety leadership Committee. Dr. Kertai's research interest is defining, assessing perioperative risk, and developing clinical strategies to improve patient outcomes. He is a U.S. citizen, whose pathway from Hungary to London to the United States provides an international experience to his healthcare perspective.

Jaime Ortiz, MD, MBA, FASA

Professor of Anesthesiology, Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Dr. Jaime Ortiz serves as an attending anesthesiologist at Ben Taub Hospital, a Level I trauma center and the primary teaching hospital of Baylor College of Medicine. He currently serves as deputy chief of anesthesiology service, director of regional anesthesia, co-director of the acute pain management service, and as a member of the Ben Taub Hospital's Operating Room Committee and Quality Review Council. Dr. Ortiz has vast experience providing anesthetics for ambulatory and orthopedic surgery. He has participated in the implementation of several quality improvement initiatives at the department and hospital level, including collaborating with surgical colleagues in developing enhanced recovery after surgery protocols for a variety of surgical procedures.

Shawn Rangel, MD, MSCE

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

Dr. Shawn Rangel is a general pediatric surgeon at Boston Children's Hospital where he serves as the Senior Surgical Advisor for Quality & Safety and Weitzman Endowed Chair for Quality & Safety Research. Dr. Rangel has chaired multiple national committees with the charge of advancing the agenda of high-quality surgical care through measurement and process improvement. These have included the American Pediatric Surgical Association's (APSA) Quality & Safety Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Surgery's Committee for the Delivery of Surgical Care, and ACS Children's Surgery Data Steering Committee, among others. In collaboration with the ACS, Dr. Rangel has also led the development and oversight of several national benchmarking collaboratives, including NSQIP-Pediatric efforts to optimize appendicitis care and antimicrobial stewardship. Dr. Rangel currently serves on the editorial boards of Annals of Surgery, JAMA Pediatrics, Journal of Pediatric Surgery, and is an associate editor for Pediatric Quality & Safety.

Kimberly Richardson

Chicago, Illinois

Kimberly Richardson is an 8-year cancer survivor of ovarian cancer, Granulosa Cell Tumor, Stage 3A, and has recently been diagnosed with early stage, triple positive breast cancer. She organized Chicago's first researcher/survivor summit including six major teaching hospitals and universities to bring key stakeholders together to discuss current gynecological research. She serves as a Pre-Reviewer for the Department of Defense, Ovarian Cancer Research Program representing the Foundation for Women's Cancer. Currently holding advocacy positions with the Beryl Institute, American Board of Emergency Medicine, the ACGME Review Committee for Emergency Medicine, NCI Cancer Moonshot IMPACT, the Executive and Survivorship Committees of the Illinois Cancer Partnership and an editorial board member of The Journal of Health Design.

Kimberly has recently been named the 2021 Award Recipient for the Ellen Stovall Award in Patient Advocacy from the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship and appointed to serve on the Illinois Special Commission on Gynecologic Cancer.

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 the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). An R-01-funded health services researcher, Dr. Saigal currently is supported as the principal investigator for over \$6 million in National Institutes of Health (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 urologic oncology, and he practices at both the Westwood and Santa Monica UCLA campuses. Dr. Saigal was an American Urological Association (AUA) Gallagher Health Policy Scholar and is very active on many AUA health policy and quality committees.

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

Professor of Surgery, University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

Dr. Salvatore Scali practices at both University Health-Shands hospital at the University of Florida and the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center of Gainesville, Florida. He is the fellowship director for the vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Florida and Medical Director for the Non-Invasive Vascular Ultrasound Laboratory. He obtained his medical degree from Georgetown University in 2001 after which he completed both general surgery residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the T32 Harvard-Longwood Vascular Biology research fellowship in Boston, Massachusetts. After this time, he completed a clinical fellowship in Vascular Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Since 2010, he has been a faculty member at the University of Florida and maintains an active NIH funded research laboratory. Regionally and nationally, Dr. Scali holds leadership positions within the Society for Vascular Surgery, as well as with its patient safety organization, the Vascular Quality Initiative.

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 University of California San Francisco. 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 surgical care improvement project measures and is a physician champion for the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program.

Joshua Stein, MD, MS

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan
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 15 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.

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. He 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 the role of Director, Quality & Value at Columbia University Irving Medical Center Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

Mark A. Wilson, MD, PhD

National Director of Surgery, Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC

Dr. Mark A. Wilson is the national director of surgery for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and oversees policy, operations, and quality programs for VHA surgery. He is a general surgeon with expertise in minimally invasive and gastrointestinal surgery with academic and veteran practices for over 30 years. He served as chief of surgery and vice-president at the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Pittsburgh Healthcare System from 2001-2019 and maintains a faculty appointment at University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Wilson's past duties include regional chief surgical consultant (VISN4) and medical director of the VA Surgical Quality Improvement Program (2009-2019). He continues to participate in funded research assessing surgical quality programs and outcomes.