

Finding What Works in Health Care: Updating Standards for Systematic Reviews

Webinar Series: End User Perspectives on Systematic Reviews

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Cynthia Adinig is an author, federal policy advisor, and founder of CYNAERA, where she develops AI-driven frameworks to improve evidence synthesis, prevalence estimation, and decision-making for complex chronic conditions. After experiencing severe Long COVID, she became an internationally recognized subject matter expert on Long COVID and infection-associated chronic conditions. Her work integrates real-world data and longitudinal symptom patterns into research and systematic review methodologies. Her Milken Institute essay examines how AI is transforming research on under-studied chronic illnesses. She has testified before Congress and was appointed in 2025 to advise the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her work has informed initiatives across HHS, FDA, NIH RECOVER, CDC, AHRQ, and NASEM. Adinig has collaborated with researchers at Yale, UMass Chan, and Mount Sinai, and currently serves as a PCORI merit reviewer.

Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP is the CEO of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), a coalition of more than 50 specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians. Dr. Burstin formerly served as Chief Scientific Officer of The National Quality Forum (NQF). Prior to joining NQF, she served as the Director of the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and Director of Quality Measurement at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is the author of more than 100 articles and book chapters. Dr. Burstin is a member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and co-leads the NAM Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence. She is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Krista Hughes, BCPA, is the Founder and CEO of Hughes Advocacy, an independent patient advocacy firm based in Birmingham, Alabama. With 25+ years in healthcare and 10+ years as a Board-Certified Patient Advocate, she has supported 2,000+ patients and families nationwide across all healthcare settings. Appointed by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra to serve a three-year term on AHRQ's National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality, she is the first Alabamian known to have served on the council and also served on the NAC's subcommittee (SNAC) supporting AHRQ's National Action Alliance to Advance Patient and Workforce Safety. Krista focuses on turning patient-reported experiences and outcomes (PRE/PRO) into actionable data to reduce preventable harm, improve quality, and strengthen transparency.

Jonathan Iaccarino is the Senior Director of Science and Policy at the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST). In this role, he oversees the development and dissemination of CHEST Clinical Practice Guidelines, Research Statements, Policy Statements, and Position Statements. He also oversees policy and advocacy initiatives at CHEST, forging strategic

partnerships to advance policy and advocacy goals that improve patient outcomes in chest medicine. Dr. Iaccarino is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division at Thomas Jefferson University.

Nita Mohanty serves as the Senior Vice President of Child Health Finance and Quality (CHFQ) at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). She is responsible for providing leadership and strategic guidance to advance AAP initiatives in areas that include Pediatric Practice and Healthcare Delivery, Immunizations, Primary Care, Evidence Based Medicine, Child Health Finance and Payment, Quality and Safety, and Health Information Technology. Dr. Mohanty joined the AAP in August of 2024. Prior to her role at AAP, she served as the Chief Health Impact Officer of a support organization to a large network of primary care centers across 19 states where she oversaw Practice Transformation, Quality and Safety, and Research initiatives with a focus on improving outcomes for patients and the workforce. She continues to provide patient care in Chicago. She is a Clinical Associate Professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and has been a volunteer for global organizations with whom she provided care to families in 12 countries. In addition to her medical training and residency in pediatrics, Dr. Mohanty holds a master's degree in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety. She completed a Science and Technology Policy fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC exploring the intersection of Health Information Technology and national health priorities.

David Rind is Chief Medical Officer of the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review. He is responsible for leading teams conducting analyses and critical appraisals of medical evidence across a wide range of clinical interventions. Dr. Rind has expertise in evidence-based medicine and is a member of the international GRADE Working Group. Dr. Rind received a B.A. in chemistry from Yale University and his M.D. from the University of Rochester. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and then did a joint fellowship in general internal medicine and clinical computing at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He received a Master of Science in health policy and management from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Rind continues to see patients as an academic primary care physician working with residents at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Regina Nuzzo, PhD, is Professor of Mathematics and Data Science at Gallaudet University and an award-winning science journalist specializing in statistics and research methodology. She writes for both technical and general audiences and frequently translates complex scientific evidence for clinicians, policymakers, and the public.

Michelle Tregear, Ph.D., a 17-year breast cancer survivor, serves as the Chief Programs Officer for the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC). Joining NBCC in July 2018, she brings more than 25 years of experience in education and training development, program evaluation, research/analysis, and complex project management. Michelle also serves as a patient advocate representative of NBCC's Artemis Project, the Breast Cancer Scientific Advisory Committee for Translation Research in Oncology (TRIO), and is an advocate founding member of the Common

Sense Oncology initiative (<https://commonsenseoncology.org/>). Prior to joining NBCC, she served as a Project Director and Senior Researcher at AFYA, Inc., based in Laurel, MD, and ECRI Institute, based in Plymouth Meeting, PA. In this capacity, she directed dozens of Federal contracts largely with the US Department of Health and Human Services. Michelle holds both a Master of Arts degree and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Psychology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Harvard Medical School, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Judy Zerzan-Thul, MD, MPH is the Chief Medical Officer at Washington State Health Care Authority, Co-Chair of the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network Executive Forum, and a general internal medicine physician. She helps administer the state's Medicaid program and Employee and Retiree Benefit program. She works to support primary care, promote the innovative use of data, drive equitable health outcomes and lower the total cost of care. Prior to her role as the CMO for Washington State, Dr. Zerzan-Thul was the Chief Medical Officer at the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Dr. Zerzan-Thul holds a Doctor of Medicine from Oregon Health and Science University and received a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina.