

Forum on Advancing Diagnostic Excellence

Committee

Helen Burstin

Ex Officio Member

Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), a coalition of more than 50 specialty societies representing more than 800,000 physicians. In her role, Dr. Burstin advances the expertise and collective voice of medical specialty societies in support of physicians and the patients they serve. Dr. Burstin formerly served as Chief Scientific Officer of The National Quality Forum (NQF). Prior to joining NQF, she was the Director of the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Prior to joining AHRQ, Dr. Burstin was an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and served as Director of Quality Measurement at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is the author of more than 100 articles and book chapters on quality, safety, equity, and measurement. She serves on the American Society of Hematology Research Collaborative Board of Directors and the Oversight Committee of the National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR) of the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Burstin recently joined the Coalition for Trust in Health and Science Board of Directors. A graduate of the State University of New York at Upstate College of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Burstin completed her residency training in primary care internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and fellowship in General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She is a volunteer preceptor and Clinical Professor of Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She was awarded Mastership in the American College of Physicians. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Elise Carlson

Ex Officio Member

Elise Carlson, M.D., is a board-certified Rheumatologist who has been a practicing physician with New Haven Rheumatology for 16 years. Dr. Carlson is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Yale University School of Medicine and an Assistant Clinical Professor at Frank H. Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. She enjoys teaching both medical students and residents in her office for outpatient Rheumatology electives. She spends time each year teaching and working with the rheumatology fellows at Yale New Haven Hospital. She graduated with honors from Yale University with a BA in Biology and graduated from University of Connecticut Medical School where she earned her MD degree. She completed her residency training in internal medicine and subsequently completed her rheumatology fellowship at the University of Connecticut.

Susan E. Farrell

Ex Officio Member

Susan E. Farrell, M.D., Ed.M., is Director of Continuing and Professional Development in the Center for Interprofessional Studies and Innovation at the Mass General Hospital Institute for Health Professions. In her position, she is responsible for the oversight and support of internal continuing education endeavors, as well as the development of new external interprofessional development initiatives. She has worked in medical education at Harvard Medical School for 20 years as the Director of Student Programs, and the Emergency Medicine Clerkship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she also practices clinically. Dr. Farrell is also currently the Director of the Objective Structured Clinical Exam Program at Harvard Medical School, responsible for the longitudinal standardized assessment of students' clinical skills development. Dr. Farrell completed her residency training in Emergency Medicine and fellowship training in Medical Toxicology from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, and a Master's degree in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She serves as an ABEM oral examiner and exam question writer and is a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Becoming Certified Task Force.

Gene Harkless

Ex Officio Member

Gene Harkless, DNSc, APRN, FNP-BC, CNL, FAANP, is Associate Professor and Chair of the University of New Hampshire Department of Nursing has taught and led undergraduate and graduate program development there for 38 years. A family nurse practitioner since 1980, she continues to practice at the Greater Seacoast Community Health Center. Dr. Harkless has focused her teaching on evidence-based practice, clinical judgement, and family nursing theory. Her scholarship includes work on the diagnostic process, clinical decision-making, quality improvement, and long-term care for frail elders. She has been awarded three Fulbright Scholar awards in Norway, India, and Indonesia over her career. In 2010, Dr. Harkless was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and in 2014 she received the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2017, Dr. Harkless was selected by the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine to serve on the Macy Foundation-funded national workgroup convened to develop an interprofessional curriculum to improve diagnosis in medicine. Dr. Harkless received her BSN from Duke University, her MSN FNP education at Vanderbilt, and her DNSc at Boston University.

Donald S. Karcher

Ex Officio Member

Donald S. Karcher, MD, FCAP, is a board-certified anatomic and clinical pathologist, and hematopathologist, actively practicing and teaching hematopathology, flow cytometry, and laboratory administration. He earned his medical degree at Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, and completed his internal medicine internship and residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology, with a hematopathology emphasis, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Dr Karcher is a professor and immediate past chair of the Department of Pathology at the George Washington (GW) University Medical Center in Washington, DC. He has been a member of the GW pathology faculty since 1984, rising through the ranks to become chair of pathology in 1999, a role in which he served for 20 years.

Dr. Karcher has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and abstracts, co-authored several book chapters, and co-edited six books spanning his subspecialties, including hematopathology, laboratory administration, and pathology advocacy. Additional recognitions for Dr. Karcher include several Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching, several Who's Who in America distinctions, and being named a "Top Doctor" in the Washington Guide to Top Doctors in 2002 and 2011-2022.

Dr. Karcher has been active in many national and international medical and pathology organizations. For several years, Dr. Karcher has been a leader in the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC), the preeminent organization of academic pathology departments in the United States and Canada, serving as APC President from 2014 to 2016. In 2021, Dr. Karcher was elected to a two-year term as the CAP's president-elect with a subsequent two-year term, beginning in fall 2023, to serve as its 38th president.

Jennifer M. Orozco-Kolb

Ex Officio Member

Jennifer M. Orozco-Kolb, DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA is the Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical Affairs at the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) and the interim Executive Director of the PA Foundation (the philanthropic arm of the AAPA). Dr. Orozco-Kolb has served as a volunteer leader, patient advocate, and change agent of the PA profession and all of healthcare for more than 21+ years. She has held multiple leadership positions at both the state and national levels and is the former president and chair of the AAPA board of directors. She is a strong advocate for health equity and improving patient care access and a champion of healthcare advocacy efforts on both the state and federal levels. She is an accomplished speaker, published author, and Op-Ed scholar.

Sumant Ranji

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Sumant Ranji is a Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of Hospital Medicine at San Francisco General Hospital and the Director of the new UCSF Coordinating Center for Diagnostic Excellence (CoDEx). As the director of CoDEx, he will lead the center's strategic planning and oversee its launch and the execution of its work to champion diagnostic excellence research and engagement within the field. Dr. Ranji has over 20 years of experience in patient safety, with a particular focus on diagnostic safety and the intersection between health equity and safety. Currently, he is a co-investigator on diagnostic error research projects funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, including the ongoing Advancing Diagnostic Excellence through Prevention and Teamwork (ADEPT) study, a multicenter AHRQ-funded collaborative quality improvement project. Dr. Ranji also is an associate editor of BMJ Quality and Safety and previously served as Associate Editor for AHRQ PSNet and WebM&M. He is an active clinician and is a member of the UCSF Academy of Medical Educators. Dr. Ranji attended the University of Illinois College of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Chicago Hospitals before joining the UCSF faculty.

Susan Sheridan

Ex Officio Member

Susan Sheridan, MIM, MBA, DHL, is President and CEO of Patients for Patient Safety US. She was a member on the Patient Safety Working Group of the President's Executive Council. She has served as Director of Patient Engagement for the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine, Advisor to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Director of Patient Engagement for the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute and led the Patients for Patient Safety program at the World Health Organization. Sheridan had previously spent 10 years in patient advocacy inspired by adverse family experiences in the healthcare system. In 2009, Sheridan was named to Modern Healthcare's list of Top 25 Women in Healthcare as well as Modern Healthcare's 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare. In 2022 Sheridan was awarded the Mark L. Graber Diagnostic Quality Award.

Andrew B. Bindman

Chair

Andrew B. Bindman, M.D., (Chair) is executive vice president and chief medical officer for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and Hospitals. In this role, Dr. Bindman is responsible for driving superior quality and equitable health outcomes through the integration of quality innovation, research, and care delivery. He collaborates with the Permanente Medical Groups to accelerate Kaiser Permanente's quality strategy and improve the high-quality care provided to members and patients nationwide. Dr. Bindman reports directly to Kaiser Permanente's chairman and chief executive officer and is a member of the National Executive Team and the CEO Executive Committee. He works closely with clinical and operational leaders to establish common performance standards for quality and service, drive consistent adoption of key quality programs, and leverage data analytics and research across the enterprise. His areas of focus include advancing the quality outcomes that matter most to members and establishing equity, alongside quality and safety, as a fundamental metric for care. Dr. Bindman previously spent more than 30 years at the University of California, San Francisco where he practiced and taught clinical medicine while conducting research in health access and outcomes that resulted in more than 180 published scientific articles. A noted policy advocate, he has held advisory and leadership roles for the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the California Medicaid Research Institute, and the Healthy California for All Commission, among other agencies. Dr. Bindman is a graduate of Harvard College and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. A board-certified general internist, he completed his residency in internal medicine at UCSF and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at Stanford University. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2015 and serves on the organization's board for health care services.

Kathryn M. McDonald

Vice Chair

Dr. Kathryn (Kathy) McDonald, PhD, MM, (Vice Chair) is the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Health Systems, Quality and Safety at Johns Hopkins University. She holds primary appointments in the School of Nursing and the School of Medicine (General Internal Medicine), as well as academic affiliations in business, public health and engineering. She is co-director of the Armstrong Institute Center for Diagnostic Excellence at the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. She serves on the Advisory Committee of the Center for Equity in Aging at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Previously, she was the founding executive director of the Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research at Stanford University's School of Medicine, and executive director of the Center for Health Policy at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Her interdisciplinary scholarship aims to improve health care delivery, and relies on close partnerships with patients, frontline clinical teams, and delivery system leaders. Influential research products include over 100 evidence-based national quality, prevention and safety measures, and seminal publications on coordination of care, patient safety and quality improvement strategies, and human-centered design approaches to implementation science. In the diagnostic excellence domain, her research team and close collaborations include projects related to patient reported measures, diagnostic disparities solutions for diagnostic equity, narrative elicitation methods to deepen understanding of patient and care partner experiences, and systems-level approaches to evaluating artificial intelligence applications for screening, risk prediction, and diagnosis.

She has served as president of the Society for Medical Decision Making, advisory chair for the Relational Coordination Collaborative, and founding chair of the Patient Engagement Committee of the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine. She has also served as a member of National Academy of Medicine Committees – Child Health and Healthcare Measures, Improving Diagnosis and Reducing Diagnostic Errors — that grappled with challenges of measuring and improving quality, equity and health. She is currently serving on the NAM Diagnostic Excellence Forum Planning Committee.

Dr. McDonald values her early career experiences in semiconductor processing, technology optimization, business development, and new product development, all of which reflect her desire to move knowledge into action. She holds a PhD in health policy with an emphasis on organizations and management from UC Berkeley, an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and a BS in chemical engineering from Stanford University.

Saul Weingart

Vice Chair

Saul N. Weingart, MD, PhD, (Vice Chair) is Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at Tufts Medical Center. He served previously as Vice President for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, as Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs at Tufts Medical Center, and as the President of Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's Hospital. Dr. Weingart holds a doctorate in public policy from Harvard and an MD degree from the University of Rochester. Dr. Weingart's research examines patient safety in primary and specialty care, patient engagement, and diagnostic errors. A practicing general internist, Dr. Weingart was a member of the board of directors of the National Patient Safety Foundation and the recipient of the 2012 John M. Eisenberg individual achievement award in quality and patient safety.

Nicole Alexander-Scott

Member-at-Large

Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., MPH, served as Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health in 2015-2022. Dr. Alexander-Scott was elected by her peers across the country to be president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the national organization for state health directors, and focused on "Building Healthy and Resilient Communities." Now, as CEO of Nicole Alexander-Scott, LLC, which includes, but is not limited to being senior executive consultant at ASTHO, she is expanding this related work of effectively investing in communities, better strengthened to remove barriers to good health. Dr. Alexander-Scott has been recognized by numerous organizations, including Grow Smart, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and 3 honorary doctorate degrees. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Alexander-Scott attended Cornell University, and finished medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University at Syracuse in 2001. After completing a combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency at SUNY Stony Brook University Hospital in 2005, Dr. Alexander-Scott completed a combined fellowship in adult and pediatric infectious diseases (ID) at Brown University. She is board certified in Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Pediatric and Adult ID, plus holds a master's degree in public health (2011) and received an honorary doctorate degree (2022), both from Brown University.

Linda N. Geng

Member-at-Large

Linda N. Geng, M.D., Ph.D., is co-director of the Stanford Long COVID integrated clinical and research program. Dr. Geng is also director of the Stanford Consultative Medicine diagnostic second opinion program. Her primary expertise is in advancing the care of patients with puzzling, complex conditions, and difficult diagnoses. Dr. Geng was part of the 2021 inaugural cohort of NAM Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence program. Dr. Geng has also participated in multiple NASEM workshops including invited speaker this year for workshop to examine overlap in Infection-Associated Chronic Illnesses and workshop to examine the U.S. government definition of Long COVID.

Cristina Gonzalez

Member-at-Large

Cristina M. Gonzalez, M.D., M.Ed., an alumna of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, completed internal medicine residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital- Weill Cornell Medical Center, and a medical education research fellowship at University of Cincinnati, earning a Master's Degree in Medical Education. Upon completing that fellowship, she was selected as a Scholar in the Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This prestigious four-year award launched her research program designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions aimed at implicit bias recognition and management (IBRM) in clinical encounters. She was subsequently selected as a Scholar in the Macy Faculty Scholars Program of the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation to continue advancing her work. Dr. Gonzalez is an internationally renowned expert in the development of skills-based curricular interventions in IBRM for physicians and trainees. In 2019 she transitioned from foundation funding to NIH funding from the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities. With this funding she is designing and validating novel metrics facilitating future evaluation of interventions focused on IBRM with robust, clinically relevant outcome metrics. In 2022 she was selected as a Scholar in the National Academy of Medicine's Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence program. This program's funding and network enabled Dr. Gonzalez to continue her work in IBRM through the lens of equity diagnostic excellence. She is currently a Professor of Medicine and Population Health at New York University Grossman School of Medicine and an Associate Director for the Institute for Excellence in Health Equity.

Kristen Miller

Member-at-Large

Kristen Miller, Dr.PH., MSPH, MSL, CPPS is the Senior Scientific Director of the MedStar Health National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine, and Affiliate Faculty at Georgetown Innovation Center for Biomedical Informatics. Dr. Miller is a clinically oriented human factors researcher focusing on diagnostic safety, medical decision making, informatics, and the assessment of medical interventions with an emphasis on healthcare delivery. Her work includes meaningful and active collaboration with patient partners, families, caregivers and frontline teams. Her portfolio includes federally funded work from the National Institutes of Health, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, National Science Foundation, Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine, and Pew Charitable Trust. These projects demonstrate applied, pragmatic design, development, deployment, and evaluation of systems engineering solutions to improve patient safety, reduce diagnostic error, and improve health equity. Her research interests also include an evaluation of the ethical, legal, and policy implications of health information technology and digital health tools. Her education and training spans three public health degrees including a doctorate in epidemiology, a post-doctorate with the Department of Veterans Affairs, experience in multiple healthcare systems, and a law degree focused on healthcare law and health IT policy.