

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

Committee

Elizabeth A. McGlynn

Co-Chair

Elizabeth A. McGlynn, Ph.D., M.A., is professor emeritus in the Department of Health Systems Science at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine. Prior to her retirement in August 2025, Dr. McGlynn was the Senior Vice President for Research and Quality Measurement and the Executive Director of the Center for Effectiveness and Safety Research at Kaiser Permanente. She is a health services researcher whose primary focus is on developing and implementing methods for evaluating the quality of health care. In this work she has been a frequent user of systematic reviews that provide the evidence base for evaluating quality. Dr. McGlynn was elected to the Institute of Medicine (now NAM) in 2005 and has served on the membership committee and multiple consensus studies. She held the RAND Distinguished Chair in Health Care Quality from 2003-2011 and received the RAND Graduate School Distinguished Alumni award in 2023. She is a member and previously served on the Board of AcademyHealth from which she received the Distinguished Investigator Award in 2012. She was previously the chair of the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Dr. McGlynn received her PhD in public policy from the RAND Graduate School, a master's in public policy from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in international political economy from Colorado College.

Sally C. Morton

Co-Chair

Sally C. Morton, Ph.D., is executive vice president of Knowledge Enterprise and the Chief Research and Innovation Officer at Arizona State University (ASU) and is responsible for ASU's research and economic development ecosystem. Previously she was dean of the Virginia Tech College of Science, biostatistics chair at the University of Pittsburgh, vice president for statistics and epidemiology at RTI International, and head of the RAND Corporation's Statistics Group. She is an expert in evidence synthesis, particularly meta-analysis, and patient-centered comparative effectiveness. Dr. Morton is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a prior President of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and is a Fellow of the ASA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She received the Janet L. Norwood Award, among other honors. Dr. Morton was a compensated member of the PCORI Methodology Committee from 2014 through June 2025. She served as Vice Chair of the NAM Committee on Standards for Systematic Reviews of Comparative Effectiveness Research and has been a member of several other NAM committees. Dr. Morton earned a PhD in statistics, MS in operations research and BS in mathematical sciences from Stanford University, and an MSc in statistics from the London School of Economics.

Florence Bourgeois

Member

Florence T. Bourgeois, M.D., M.P.H., is associate professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Harvard-MIT Center for Regulatory Science. At Boston Children's Hospital, she directs the Pediatric Therapeutics and Regulatory Science Initiative and the PrecisionLink Biobank for Health Discovery. Her research focuses on advancing methods for evidence synthesis and developing statistical tools and pipelines to support innovative approaches for the development and evaluation of regulated therapeutic products. She was an early innovator in leveraging large clinical trial registries, including ClinicalTrials.gov, to systematically track research activity and quantify biases in the clinical research enterprise. Linking registries with bibliographic databases, she demonstrated selective reporting of research findings, the influence of financial conflicts of interest, and the underrepresentation of key populations—notably children and older adults—in clinical trials. Her work has advanced methodological approaches to support systematic review updates, assess research rigor and integrity, and promote representative inclusion in clinical research. Dr. Bourgeois is a graduate of Yale University and Washington University School of Medicine, completed residency and fellowship training in pediatric emergency medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, and earned an M.P.H. in clinical effectiveness from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Issa Dahabreh

Member

Issa Dahabreh, M.D., Sc.D., is Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Section Head of Epidemiology & Data Science at the Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Center for Outcomes Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). His research focuses on the development of novel methods for combining information from diverse sources, including randomized trial augmentation using external data and AI/ML models, generalizability and transportability analyses for extending causal inferences from one or more trials to a target population, and causally interpretable meta-analysis. Dr. Dahabreh is a statistical editor for JAMA. He is a consultant to Moderna, Novartis, Johnson & Johnson, and Elixir Medical on methodological aspects of the analysis of observational studies and randomized trials. He is cofounder of Xtraction Technologies, which focuses on the development of novel ML/AI algorithms with potential applications to clinical research. Dr. Dahabreh earned his MD from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, his MS in clinical and translational science from Tufts University, and his ScD in epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Esa M. Davis

Member

Esa M Davis, M.D., M.P.H., is a professor of Family & Community Medicine, Senior Associate Dean of Population Health and Community Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Associate Vice President for Community Health at the University of Maryland Baltimore. Dr. Davis's research examines perinatal determinants of adverse maternal cardiovascular health outcomes. She conducts comparative effectiveness and pragmatic clinical trials that test screening and treatment strategies to improve maternal health outcomes. She has expertise in analyzing and using systematic reviews in clinical practice as a primary care physician and in developing preventive services recommendation statements as a former member and vice-chair of the US Preventive Services Task Force. She served on prior relevant NAM committees focused on Implications of pregnancy weight gain- reexamination of IOM pregnancy weight gain guidelines, and Implementation and dissemination of 2009 pregnancy weight gain guidelines. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2025. She earned a M.D. from the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical school, completed family medicine residency at Overlook Hospital in NJ, earned an MPH and completed postdoctoral research fellowship at Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health and Medicine.

Alex R. Kemper

Member

Alex R. Kemper M.D., M.P.H., M.S., is the Division Chief of Primary Care Pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital and editor-in-chief of PEDIATRICS, the flagship journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Kemper's research focuses on preventive service delivery in the primary care practice setting. As part of this work, he has led numerous systematic evidence reviews. He is a former member of the United States Preventive Services Task Force and has served as Chair of the Evidence Review Group for the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children. Dr. Kemper has a subcontract with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to evaluate novel approaches to primary care and has received funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration for work related to systematic reviews. Dr. Kemper completed his pediatric residency training at Duke University followed by combined fellowship training in health services research and medical informatics with additional residency training in preventive medicine at the University of North Carolina.

Gregory Laynor

Member

Gregory Laynor, Ph.D., M.S., M.A., is a systematic review librarian who leads research and education on evidence synthesis at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and NYU Langone Health. He serves as Assistant Curator of the NYU Health Sciences Library, Director of the NYU Meta-Research Collaborative, and Course Director for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis in the Vilcek Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences. He is also on the faculty of the College of Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University. He developed the Medical Library Association's first continuing education course on evaluating the benefits and risks of AI for evidence synthesis. He was invited by Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods to serve as editor of the journal's special issue on AI. He has held positions in libraries at several academic medical centers, where he developed initiatives in health professions education and team science for evidence synthesis. He has served in leadership roles on committees of the Medical Library Association and the Association of College & Research Libraries. He has a PhD from the University of Washington.

Tianjing Li

Member

Tianjing Li, M.D., Ph.D., M.H.S., is a professor of ophthalmology and epidemiology at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. With solid training in medicine, epidemiology, and biostatistics, the primary focus of Dr. Li's research is to develop, evaluate, and disseminate efficient methods for comparing healthcare interventions and to provide trustworthy evidence for decision-making. Dr. Li has garnered an international reputation as a leader in leading methodologic research in systematic reviews, clinical trials, comparative effectiveness research, and patient-centered outcomes research. Evidence of Dr. Li's international recognition includes serving as a Co-Editor-in-Chief for the journal *Trials* (a compensated role), the Reviews Editor for *JAMA Ophthalmology*, a Methodological Editor for *Annals of Internal Medicine* (a compensated role), an Associate Scientific Editor for the 2nd edition of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*, a Section Editor for book *Principles and Practice of Clinical Trials*, an Author and Editor for *Textbook of Epidemiology* (2nd edition), author of the *Essential Methods Guide for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)* (a compensated role), and an author for three reports by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Li holds several leadership roles within Cochrane, including serving as the Coordinating Editor for *Cochrane Eyes and Vision* since 2018 and as co-convenor for the *Cochrane Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group* since 2011, and previously serving as Associate Director for *Cochrane United States* (2012–2018) and as a member of the *Cochrane Methods Executive Committee* (2019–2025). Dr. Li was the 2019 recipient of Cochrane's Anne Anderson Award, which recognized her cumulative accomplishment, originality and independence of thought, leadership, and inspiration for women within Cochrane. Dr. Li has an active grant from the National Eye Institute for the *Cochrane Eyes and Vision Project*. She also holds ongoing grants related to evidence synthesis methodology from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Li is currently involved with a clinical trial at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus to evaluate blood clotting mechanisms to improve outcomes for trauma patients. She is a co-instructor on a Coursera course hosted by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health titled "Introduction to systematic review and meta-analysis" and received revenue shares from course participation. Dr. Li is an elected fellow to the Society for Research Synthesis Methodology; she served as the President of the society from 2022 to 2023 and received its inaugural Early Career Award in 2016.

Bradley A. Malin

Member

Bradley Malin, Ph.D., is the Accenture Professor of Biomedical Informatics, Biostatistics, and Computer Science, as well as Vice Chair for Research Affairs in the Department of Biomedical Informatics. His research is funded through grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute. His research is on the development of technologies to enable artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) in the context of organizational, policy, and health information architectures. He has made specific contributions in a number of areas, including distributed data processing methods for medical record linkage and predictive modeling, intelligent auditing technologies to protect electronic medical records from misuse in the context of primary care, and algorithms to formally anonymize patient information disseminated for secondary research purposes. His investigations on the empirical risks to health information re-identification have been cited by the Federal Trade Commission in the Federal Register and certain privacy enhancing technologies he developed have been featured in popular media outlets and blogs, including Nature News, Scientific American, and Wired magazine. He co-founded and co-directs the AI Discovery and Vigilance to Accelerate Innovation and Clinical Excellence (ADVANCE) Center. He is also the one of the principal investigators of the Center for Genetic Privacy and Identity in Community Settings (GetPreCiSe) - an NIH Center of Excellence on Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications Research (CEER), the NIH Bridge2AI Center, and the Infrastructure Core of the NIH AIM-AHEAD program. In addition, he serves as the co-chair of the Committee on Access, Privacy, and Security (CAPS) of the All of Us Research Program of the U.S. Precision Medicine Initiative, an appointed member of the Technical Anonymisation Group of the European Medicines Agency, and an appointed member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Medicine, the American College of Medical Informatics, the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics (IAHSI), the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers. In addition, he was honored as a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the White House. Dr. Malin completed his education at Carnegie Mellon University, where he received a bachelor's in biological sciences, a master's in machine learning, a master's in public policy and management, and a doctorate in computer science (with a focus on databases and software systems).

Tilicia Mayo-Gamble

Member

Tilicia Mayo-Gamble, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A. is the Associate Dean for Practice and Research and an Associate Professor in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University. She is a health services and healthcare disparities researcher with a research agenda focused on implementing community and patient engagement methods to facilitate self-care behaviors and enhance patient-centered care among adults with chronic diseases and marginalized populations. For nearly two decades, she has advocated for and conducted research alongside sickle cell disease and trait stakeholders (e.g., patients, caregivers, advocates, clinicians, and payors). This includes working alongside stakeholders to integrate community-based strategies into clinical settings. She has been the co-lead and lead investigator in Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute's (PCORI) Engagement Awards to engage stakeholders to establish stakeholder networks, prioritize patient-centered outcomes, and develop research dissemination strategies. She previously served on the PCORI Rare Disease Advisory Board and as a patient merit reviewer for PCORI. Additionally, Dr. Mayo-Gamble has worked with colleagues to develop frameworks to equitably engage stakeholders in all phases of the research continuum and ensure effective methods can be scaled to other rare chronic conditions. She is also a caregiver to her husband who has sickle cell disease. Dr. Mayo-Gamble received her Bachelor of Arts from Butler University and Master of Arts, Master of Public Health, and Doctor of Philosophy from Indiana University. She then completed a post-doctoral fellowship Community Engaged and Health Disparities Research with the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core.

M. Hassan Murad

Member

Mohammad Hassan Murad, M.D., M.P.H., is a professor of medicine and an epidemiologist at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He directs Mayo Clinic Evidence-based Practice Center (AHRQ EPC), and a Cochrane Affiliate Center. Dr. Murad co-founded the US GRADE Network and supported the development of numerous GRADE guidance documents. His research focuses on conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses, studying the methodology of evidence synthesis and appraisal, and supporting decision-making of guideline developers. He also studies the automation of systematic reviews and the use of artificial intelligence to perform various tasks in the review process. He has over 1,000 scientific publications on these topics and has supported over 100 clinical practice guideline panels. After graduating from medical school, Dr. Murad completed residency in Internal Medicine, a master's in public health, a fellowship in Preventive Medicine and Public Health and a fellowship in Primary Care Faculty Development.

Joseph S. Ross

Member

Joseph S. Ross, M.D., M.H.S., is a Professor of General Internal Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine and of Health Policy and Management at the Yale School of Public Health. With expertise in health services and outcomes research, his research examines the use and delivery of higher quality care, how clinical research is translated into practice, and issues related to pharmaceutical and medical device regulation, evidence development, postmarket surveillance, and medical product adoption. Dr. Ross co-directs the Yale-Mayo Clinic Center for Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation (CERSI), the Yale Open Data Access (YODA) Project, and the Collaboration for Regulatory Rigor, Integrity, and Transparency (CRRIT) and leads efforts at Yale-New Haven Health System in collaboration with the National Evaluation System for health Technology (NEST). Dr. Ross serves on the board of directors for Alosa Health, as a member of the New England Comparative Effectiveness Public Advisory Council, and as a member of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee for Aradigm. He receives research support through Yale University from Johnson and Johnson, the Food and Drug Administration, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Greenwall Foundation, and Arnold Ventures. He previously received funding from the Medical Device Innovation Consortium and was a consultant on a project funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. Dr. Ross was previously an expert witness in a qui tam suit alleging violations of the False Claims Act and Anti-Kickback Statute against Biogen Inc. that was settled September 2022. He has published more than 750 articles in peer-reviewed biomedical journals, co-founded the preprint server medRxiv, and is currently a Deputy Editor at JAMA (paid).

Aimee K. Roundtree

Member

Aimee Kendall Roundtree, Ph.D., is assistant vice president for Research at Texas State University and a professor in technical communication. She is editor of Research Management Review and reviews grants for federal and national sponsors, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and was previously a patient merit reviewer for PCORI. Dr. Roundtree receives funding from the NEC Foundation and the State Farm Community Foundation. Her research examines STEM and medical communication, ethics, rhetoric, and human-AI interaction using systematic and integrative reviews, mixed methods, UX, and NLP approaches. Dr. Roundtree also investigates the ethics and user experience of facial recognition. She investigates points of translation and transaction among experts, policymakers, organizations, the public, and human and non-human agents. She was a lead author of the World Economic Forum's AI for Children toolkit, a fellow of the AASCU Emerging Leaders program, and is currently a fellow in APLU's Council on Research leadership program. Previously, she worked as a coordinator, medical writer, qualitative researcher, and communication specialist at the Texas Medical Foundation, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Baylor College of Medicine, and Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base. Dr. Roundtree earned her Ph.D. in writing and rhetoric from the University of Texas at Austin. Nationally, she has served on working groups for the Federal Demonstration Partnership and the Council on Government Relations, and on boards for IRIS, ARSTM, Knowbility, the Texas Association of Charitable Clinics, and ACCEYS.

Paul G. Shekelle

Member

Paul Shekelle, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., is the Chief of General Internal Medicine at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, a primary care physician in our primary care clinic, and a Professor of Medicine at UCLA. He is also a COIN Investigator for the VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy and Director of the VA West Los Angeles Evidence-based Synthesis Program. Dr. Shekelle was the founding Director of the AHRQ-funded Southern California Evidence-Based Practice Center site at the RAND Corporation, a position he held for more than 20 years. He received the VA Under Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research (2011) and the Duke Alumni Award (2014) in recognition of the impact of my work on evidence-based practice nationally and internationally. His scholarly interests are in the areas of evidence-based medicine, practice guidelines, and quality of care, and he has co-authored more than 300 peer-reviewed journal articles, more than 80 of which have been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, the British Medical Journal, or Annals of Internal Medicine. He was a founding editor of the journal Systematic Reviews.

Shazia Mehmood Siddique

Member

Shazia Siddique, M.D., M.S.H.P., is a gastroenterologist, epidemiologist, health services researcher, and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She currently serves as co-Director of the ECRI-Penn Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC), funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ). She is also the Chief Medical Officer of MDCalc, a medical reference for clinical decision support tools. She has extensive expertise in systematic reviews and clinical practice guideline development through the AHRQ EPC program and as a former member of the American Gastroenterological Association's Clinical Guidelines Committee for two terms since 2016. Most recently, she was a NAM Scholar for Diagnostic Excellence (2024-25). Dr. Siddique has authored multiple publications regarding evidence synthesis and has presented public testimony about health equity methodology in systematic review development. She completed her medical degree at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, internal medicine residency training at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, and gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

Areti-Angeliki Veroniki

Member

Areti-Angeliki Veroniki, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the Center for Evidence Synthesis in Health (CESH), Department of Health Services, Policy, and Practice, School of Public Health, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA. She is also an associate professor at the University of Toronto in the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation and she is an affiliate scientist at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto. Her research focuses on optimizing the processes of evidence-based medicine, and advancing statistical methods for evidence synthesis, including network meta-analysis. Her goal is to develop and advance meta-analytical approaches that provide patients, healthcare providers, and policymakers with reliable evidence to inform decision-making. Her work has been vastly supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Government of Ontario. She serves as an unpaid Co-Chair of the Cochrane Methods Executive, Co-Convenor of the Cochrane Statistical Methods Group, a compensated Statistical Editor for the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, and an unpaid Associate Editor for Research Synthesis Methods. With a background in Mathematics, Dr. Veroniki pursued an MSc in Statistics and Operations Research before completing her PhD in Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Ioannina, Greece, in 2014. In 2017, she completed a CIHR Banting Post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Meera Viswanathan

Member

Meera Viswanathan, Ph.D., is a Senior Fellow at RTI International (RTI) and leads the RTI-University of North Carolina (UNC) Cochrane US Affiliate. She served as the Director of the RTI-UNC Evidence-based Practice Center for 17 years and continues to advise and support the Center. She has led or participated in numerous systematic reviews to support the United States Preventive Services Taskforce, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, professional societies, state governments, and other non-commercial entities. Dr. Viswanathan has also led or participated in the development of new methods and guidance related to evidence synthesis, including on assessing the risk of bias of individual studies and systematic reviews, the use of observational studies, the use and reporting on complex multicomponent interventions in systematic reviews, managing conflicts of interest, centering racial health equity, rapid reviews, use of large language models, and strength of evidence grading. She has been awarded several merit-based awards by PCORI to generate evidence-maps and systematic reviews. Dr. Viswanathan is on the external advisory board of the Texas A&M Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition Evidence Center. She is a founding member of the Methods Steering Committee for the Effective Healthcare Program for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). She also has an adjunct appointment and is a Research Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.