

Requirements for Pulmonary Function Testing in Social Security Disability Evaluations

Committee

Roger J. Lewis

Chair

Roger J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D. (Chair), is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a Senior Medical Scientist at Berry Consultants, LLC, a group that specializes in innovative clinical trial design. Dr. Lewis is the senior statistical editor for JAMA and editor of the JAMA series entitled “JAMA Guides to Statistics and Methods.” His expertise centers on adaptive and Bayesian clinical trials, including platform trials; general clinical research methodology; data and safety monitoring boards, and the oversight of clinical trials.

Dr. Lewis was formerly the Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and a Senior Physician in the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. He has previously served as a member of the Blood Products Advisory Committee of the US Food and Drug Administration, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and on multiple consensus committees of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. He has chaired data and safety monitoring boards for numerous federally funded, industry-sponsored, and multinational clinical trials. Dr. Lewis has served as a content reviewer for many peer reviewed journals. He has authored or coauthored approximately 300 original research publications, reviews, editorials, and chapters. Dr. Lewis is a past President of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine and served on the Board of Directors for the Society for Clinical Trials. He is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Statistical Association, and the Society for Clinical Trials. He received his Ph.D. in Biophysics and his M.D. from Stanford University. Dr. Lewis is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

R. Graham Barr

Member

R. Graham Barr, M.D., Dr.P.H, is the Hamilton Southworth Professor of Medicine, Professor of Epidemiology, and Chief of the Division of General Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. His research focuses on respiratory epidemiology and novel imaging methods to examine the pathophysiology and consequences of chronic lung disease in multiple, large population-based cohorts (e.g., the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) Lung Study), in which he has also performed spirometry, and disease-based studies (e.g., SPIROMICS). He is a member of the Association of American Physicians and the Fleischner Society. He received his medical degree from McGill University and a doctorate in epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, a fellowship in general medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a post-doc at the Channing Laboratory, Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Rebecca Bascom

Member

Rebecca Bascom, M.D., M.P.H., is a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and of Public Health Sciences and active staff at Penn State College of Medicine. She trained at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Public Health in internal medicine, pulmonary and critical care, preventive and occupational medicine, and inhalation toxicology. She has previously served as a member of multiple National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committees, including the Committee on Selected Heritable Connective Tissue Disorders and Disability, the Committee on Assessing Toxicologic Risks to Human Subjects Used in Controlled Exposure Studies of Environmental Pollutants, and the Committee on Scientific Standards for Studies on Modified Risk Tobacco Products. She received the Distinguished Career Award from the Environmental, Occupational and Population Health Assembly of the American Thoracic Society. She co-led the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCORI)'s Pulmonary Clinical Research Group of the PCORnet, convening the Workshop "Electronic Health Records and Pulmonary Function Data: Developing an Interoperability Roadmap." She is a practicing pulmonary and critical care physician at Penn State Health and active clinical researcher.

Ellen A. Becker

Member

Ellen A. Becker, Ph.D., retired in 2023 after teaching respiratory care in undergraduate and graduate programs for 28 years. Prior to her retirement, she spent 18 years delivering direct respiratory therapy services in pediatric, adult, and community settings. As part of other roles, she conducted pediatric spirometry testing in the first decade of her career and complete pulmonary function testing with adults in the decade prior to retirement. More recently, she conducted research to improve quality control for spirometry and DLCO tests and addressed race and ethnicity in reference equations. She was awarded a fellowship in the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC); served the AARC as Education Section Chair, Board of Directors member, and Parliamentarian; and is an editorial board member for the Journal of Asthma and Respiratory Care Reports. Invited AARC honor lectures include the 12th Thomas L. Petty Memorial Lecture on race and ethnicity in pulmonary function testing in 2024 and Dr. H. Fred Helmholtz, M.D., Education Lecture in 2021. She received an A.A.S. degree in respiratory therapy in 1978, B.S. in zoology in 1983, and a Ph.D. in adult education in 1995.

William B. Glomb

Member

William Brendle Glomb, M.D., is the Chief Medical Officer for Waco Family Medicine (Federally Qualified Health Center). He graduated from Rice University with degrees in Chemical Engineering and Mathematics and completed his medical training at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He completed his pediatric residency at Texas A&M University College of Medicine and fellowships in the Division of Neonatology and Pediatric Pulmonology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. He has taught as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Nebraska and Creighton University Medical Schools, at the Orlando Regional Medical Center, and as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Texas (UT) Medical Branch/Austin and UT Southwestern Medical Center Austin. He served as an adjunct faculty member for the UT Health Houston School of Public Health in Austin, a volunteer faculty member at the Dell UT Austin School of Medicine teaching healthcare financing, and a faculty member for the Preventative Medicine Residency Program of the Texas Department of State Health Services (Residency Advisory Committee). Dr. Brendle is a published pulmonary researcher. He is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Glomb was the Medical Director of the Sleep Physiology and Neurodiagnostics Laboratory of the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas in Austin before becoming the Chief Medical Director of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission where he oversaw the Texas Medicaid and CHIP Programs, the Texas HealthSteps Program, the Texas Women's Health Program, and new innovative projects for Medicaid children which were designed to address Quality-of-Care and access-to-care-related issues. He serves on federal quality care committees, including co-Chairing the Pulmonary and Critical Care Steering Committee for the National Quality Forum (NQF) and the NQF Committee for Chronic Disease. He is the Vice-Chair of the Texas Medical Association Standing Committee on Medicaid, CHIP, and the Uninsured, and an Advisor to the Committee on Value-Based Care. Dr. Brendle is a member of the Texas Pediatric Society Practice Management Committee, Fetus and Newborn Committee, and Committee on Medicaid, CHIP, and the Uninsured.

Kenneth J. Harker

Member

Kenneth J. Harker, RRT, RPFT, currently serves as Supervisor of Respiratory Care and holds appointments on the Michigan Board for Respiratory Care and the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) Board of Directors, where he chairs the Diagnostics Specialty Section. He has held progressive leadership roles in clinical respiratory care, with a particular focus on pulmonary function testing and diagnostics. Harker is recognized for his expertise in pulmonary diagnostics and clinical operations, having presented at both state and national conferences on pulmonary function testing and respiratory care innovation. His work emphasizes advancing diagnostic standards and mentoring emerging professionals in the field. He was honored as the 2023 AARC Diagnostic Specialty Practitioner of the Year and received the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Cincinnati. He is also a credentialed Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT). Harker earned his Associate of Applied Science degree from Muskegon Community College and his Bachelor of Science from the University of Cincinnati, where he focused on respiratory care and pulmonary diagnostics.

Matthew J. Hegewald

Member

Matthew J. Hegewald, M.D., is a pulmonary and critical care physician at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah. He is a Professor of Medicine at Intermountain Health and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah. He is Medical Director of the Pulmonary Function and Blood Gas Laboratory at Intermountain Medical Center. His responsibilities include practicing general pulmonary and critical care medicine, teaching medical students, residents and fellows, conducting research with a focus on lung function testing topics, and administrative functions. Dr. Hegewald has several research publications in the field of lung function testing. He has held numerous leadership positions and is past Chairman of the CHEST Pulmonary Physiology, Function and Rehabilitation Network. He has participated on several American Board of Internal Medicine Committees. Dr. Hegewald has extensive experience independently testing spirometers with a pulmonary wave form generator to assess instrument performance.

Stella Hines

Member

Stella E. Hines, M.D., M.S.P.H., is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in the Divisions of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine. She previously served as Branch Chief of the Field Studies Branch in the Respiratory Health Division at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she led national workplace investigations and research initiatives. Dr. Hines is a board-certified pulmonologist and occupational medicine physician whose clinical and research focus centers on occupational lung disease and pulmonary function testing. Her work has advanced understanding of pulmonary function in exposed populations, and she has published and presented on the impact of reference values in respiratory impairment assessment. She is a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, member of the American Thoracic Society and prior Chair of the Section on Terrorism and Inhalational Disasters. She has presented as a subject matter expert for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Personal Protective Equipment for Workplace Safety and Health. Dr. Hines earned her M.D. from Texas A&M University, M.S.P.H. from the University of Colorado, and completed residencies and fellowships in internal medicine, pulmonary and critical care, and occupational medicine at the University of Chicago and University of Colorado, Denver. Dr. Hines periodically provides independent medical evaluations in legal proceedings.

Jeremy T. Hua

Member

Jeremy T. Hua, M.D., M.P.H., is a full-time faculty member, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and board-certified pulmonary and occupational medicine physician at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado. His clinical expertise focuses on the diagnosis, management, and prevention of occupational lung diseases, and he is accredited to perform pulmonary impairment and disability assessments for multiple federal and state benefits programs. He is an attending physician in the Pulmonary Physiology Unit where he interprets pulmonary function and cardiopulmonary exercise tests. As part of his role at National Jewish Health, Dr. Hua performs workers compensation assessments. Dr. Hua is Principal and Co-Investigator on several state and federally funded clinical research grants. He has coauthored multiple peer-reviewed scientific publications on the epidemiology, clinical features, pathophysiology, and outcomes of occupational lung diseases (including pneumoconioses and airways diseases). Dr. Hua's clinical scholarship and service includes membership on the Planning Committee for the American Thoracic Society Assembly on Environmental, Occupational, and Population Health; panel representative for the American College of Radiology Appropriateness Criteria for Occupational Lung Diseases; and certified provider for the Department of Labor Black Lung Program. He has received several research and clinical awards including The Reuben M. Cherniack Fellowship Award for Research Excellence, University of Colorado Fellow of the Year Award, and University of Colorado Great Teaching Award.

Meredith McCormack

Member

Meredith C. McCormack, M.D., M.H.S., is a Professor of Medicine and the Director of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. McCormack has clinical expertise in asthma and COPD, as well as pulmonary physiology and pulmonary function testing. She served as the Medical Director of the Johns Hopkins University Pulmonary Function Laboratory. She currently serves on an American Thoracic Society task force working on an update to the ATS Recommendations for Standardized Pulmonary Function and Oscillometry Reporting and is the past chair of the ATS Committee Pulmonary Function Testing Committee. Through December 31, 2025, Dr. McCormack is a member of the medical advisory board for ndd Medical Technologies (compensated), a company that makes pulmonary function test instruments. She is also a member of the Global Lung Initiative. She is currently an author and editor for pulmonary function testing content for UpToDate. She was previously compensated for teaching a course on pulmonary function testing for MCG Diagnostics and for consulting work for GSK and Astra Zeneca. Dr. McCormack is a physician scientist, who is currently funded by the NIH and has previously been funded by the EPA with a research focus on the effect of environmental influences on underlying obstructive lung disease- specifically air pollution, diet, obesity influences on COPD and asthma.

Clement Ren

Member

Clement L. Ren, M.D., M.B.A., is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania and the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Center Director at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he holds the Richard B. Johnston Jr Endowed Chair in Pediatrics. He received his MD from the University of Chicago and then completed a pediatric residency and allergy/immunology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital followed by a pediatric pulmonology fellowship at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. His research, which has been supported by the CF Foundation (CFF) and the NIH, has utilized advanced pulmonary function tests (PFTs) to study outcomes in CF and bronchopulmonary dysplasia. He has served multiple terms on and is currently a member of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) PFT Committee, which develops proficiency standards for PFTs and serves as a resource for the ATS in matters related to PFTs. He is currently on a working group to develop standards for multiple breath washout PFTs and he was part of a CFF task force on how to implement race neutral PFT interpretation into CF care. He has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha, and he is an ATS Fellow, which recognizes his accomplishments and contributions to the ATS and to the field of pediatric pulmonology.

Andrew R. Tomlinson

Member

Andrew R. Tomlinson, M.D., FCCP, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UT Southwestern) and a member of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Originally from San Angelo, Texas, Dr. Tomlinson holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Texas A&M University in College Station. He earned his medical degree at UT Southwestern, followed by internal medicine residency training at the University of Colorado in Denver. He completed advanced training through a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at UT Southwestern, where he was Chief Fellow. Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and critical care medicine, Dr. Tomlinson joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2016. He is currently the Medical Director of the Pulmonary Function Testing Laboratory at UT Southwestern. He is a member of the Texas Medical Association, the Dallas County Medical Society, the American Thoracic Society, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Heart Association, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the Wilderness Medical Society. Dr. Tomlinson's clinical and research interests include exercise physiology and pulmonary function testing including cardiopulmonary exercise testing.