

# KIDNEY CARE QUALITY ALLIANCE

## **ATTACHMENT 5: KCQA HOME DIALYSIS WORKGROUP** (alphabetically by organization)

### **American Nephrology Nurses Association**

Donna Painter, MS, RN, CNN

### **American Society of Nephrology**

Rajnish Mehrotra, MD, MS

### **American Society of Pediatric Nephrology**

Avram Z. Traum, MD

### **B. Braun Medical, Inc.**

Emiliya Kechker

### **Dialysis Patient Citizens, Inc.**

Vanessa Evans

### **Fresenius Medical Care North America**

Bryan Fore

### **Renal Physicians Association**

Rebecca Schmidt, DO, FACP, FASN

### **University of Minnesota**

Eric Weinhandl PhD, MS

## KCQA HOME DIALYSIS WORKGROUP BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

(alphabetically by last name)

### **Vanessa Evans (DPC)**

Vanessa Evans is Senior Manager of Advocacy and Communities for FMCNA/NxStage. A dialysis patient for over 24 years, her journey with kidney disease beginning when she was just 12 years old. She received a living-donor transplant in 1991, but her donor kidney failed after several years. She received in-center hemodialysis for eight years before transitioning to home hemodialysis. Fourteen years later, she is still a home dialysis patient and has thrived on this modality. She is a small business owner, a wife, and mother, and for the last 15 years, she has been a passionate and dedicated advocate to the kidney community. Being Latin X and bilingual, she is also attuned to disparities in patient education and options. Her primary goal is to make sure that their voice is heard and represented.

### **Bryan Fore (FMCNA)**

Bryan Fore is Senior Vice President of Home Therapies at Fresenius Medical Care North America. Bryan is an experienced Healthcare Executive with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & health care industry. Previous roles at Fresenius include Vice President of Inpatients Services and Home Therapies. He is skilled in multi-site health care operations, development of high performing teams, in hospital and home dialysis services, sales leadership, medical devices, nephrology, and apheresis. Bryan has a Bachelor of Science focused on Nursing from the University of Utah.

### **Emiliya Kechker (B. Braun Medical)**

Emiliya Kechker has over 20 years of dialysis experience. She has worked for both DaVita and DCI as well as independent dialysis clinics. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering in Russia. After three years as a Biomedical Engineer in Ukraine, Emiliya moved to the United States to work as a Patient Care Technician in Missouri. She then transitioned to a dialysis technician role, quickly becoming an Area Technical Manager. She also has a year of experience as a dialysis clinic Facility Administrator. Emiliya presently resides in Kansas and continues to use her wealth of dialysis knowledge in her current role as a Renal Product Trainer at B. Braun Medical Inc.

### **Rajnish "Raj" Mehrotra, MD, MS (ASN)**

Dr Mehrotra is the interim head of the Division of Nephrology and David S and Nayda Utterberg Endowed Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. He is internationally recognized as an expert in the care of patients undergoing maintenance dialysis for the treatment of end-stage renal disease with a special interest in peritoneal dialysis. His research interests include comparative effectiveness research of treatments for improving patient-reported outcomes in people with kidney failure undergoing hemodialysis and studying the biological determinants of peritoneal membrane function. He has published over 290 articles and/or book chapters and his work is supported by several grants from the National Institutes of Health. He was awarded the John Maher Award by the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis in 2006. He has served as the Chair of the Dialysis Advisory Group of the American Society of Nephrology (2009-'15), Associate Editor for the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (2014-'16), Treasurer of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (2014-'16), and the President of the North American Chapter of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (2015-'17). He has also served as an Associate Editor of *Peritoneal Dialysis International* and *NephSAP*, and section editor for *Clinical Nephrology*. He has served as Chair of the Education Committee and Membership Committee of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis and a member of the Council of the Society in the past. Dr Mehrotra completed his medical schooling at the All India Institute of

Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India, underwent residency training at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and fellowship training at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He obtained a Masters of Science degree in Clinical Research at the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Donna Painter, MS, RN, CNN (ANNA)**

Donna Painter has a BSN, a master's degree in health care administration, and more than 30 years of experience as a Certified Nephrology Nurse. She began her outpatient career with the goal of initiating a peritoneal dialysis program in a rural clinic. Her clinical experience also includes both in-center and home hemodialysis. Along with home dialysis, she has a passion for quality improvement, and was the Vice President for Home Therapies Quality for one of the LDOs. In November 2018, Ms. Painter joined the National Dialysis Accreditation Commission as a surveyor continuing to ensure the quality of care that home dialysis patients receive. In 2021, she published *Preventing Home Dialysis Complications: Teaching family caregivers to recognize and respond to vascular access hemorrhage and peritonitis* in the American Journal of Nursing. The project, part of AARP's series *Supporting Family Caregivers: No Longer Home Alone* includes tools and videos for caregivers as well as tools for non-nephrology nurses. Ms. Painter was National President of the American Nephrology Nurses Association in 2010-2011. Currently she is a member of the Health Policy Committee and ANNA's representative to the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Home Dialysis.

**Rebecca J. Schmidt, DO, FACP, FASN (RPA)**

Dr. Schmidt is a nephrologist with 27 years of experience as a rural practitioner and patient advocate, serving in a large academic group practice as a clinician, a teacher, an administrative leader, and a dialysis medical director. A graduate of the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Dr. Schmidt completed her internal medicine residency and nephrology fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, moving in 1993 to join the West Virginia University School of Medicine where she realized a passion for rural outreach that has defined her career. During her 17-year tenure as Chief of Nephrology, she led the initiative to decentralize the nephrology outpatient clinic system, expanding access to care in rural communities for patients with kidney disease. A vision cultivated early on when her first patient had driven more than two hours to see the nephrologist, this initiative began with one on-campus clinic and two outpatient dialysis units, ultimately growing into multiple outreach clinics and an increasing number of dialysis units in northcentral West Virginia, saving millions of driving miles for patients from more than thirty West Virginia Counties. During this time, she served in a number of national roles, including an extended term as Renal Physicians Association President and as a member of many boards, forums, committees, task forces, and initiatives related to advocacy for and care of patients with kidney disease. Dr. Schmidt is the proud wife of a kidney transplant recipient and former dialysis patient which gives her a unique perspective as a family member and moreover, a daily witness to the courage and strength required of those living life with kidney disease, a transplant, or the need for dialysis. She currently serves as Assistant Dean for Outreach and Community Engagement for the WVU School of Medicine and Vice Chair of Rural Outreach and Service to the State for the Department of Medicine. As a practicing 'rural nephrologist,' she is especially sensitized to the unique needs of patients living distant to care and remains committed to the quest of making kidney care easily available to all patients irrespective of their heritage, geographic or socioeconomic status.

**Avram Z. Traum, MD (ASPN), Special Pediatric Envoy**

Dr. Avram Traum is a Pediatric Nephrologist at Boston Children's Hospital and a member of the faculty at Harvard Medical School. He has extensive clinical experience caring for patients with End Stage Kidney Disease on chronic dialysis, especially home dialysis spanning the age range

from infants through young adults. Dr. Traum serves as the Director of Quality for the Boston Children's Hospital Division of Nephrology and oversees all aspects of the quality improvement initiatives within the division, including substantial longitudinal involvement with the Dialysis QAPI program. He is also the Physician QAPI Director for the Boston Children's Hospital Pediatric Transplant Center, with responsibility to oversee and be involved with all quality metrics pertaining to all of the solid organ transplant programs. Dr. Traum has been involved in several national quality improvement efforts in the pediatric nephrology community, including the Standardized Care to Improve Outcomes in Pediatric End Stage Kidney Disease (SCOPE) Collaborative and the Improving Renal Outcomes Collaborative (IROC). He has previously served on the Patient Engagement Workgroup of the CDC's Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition, whose aim is to empower patients to become infection prevention advocates, focusing on the staff-patient interaction and peer mentorship. Aside from his clinical and QI responsibilities, Dr. Traum chairs the Transplant Working Group of the Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium and has been a member of the multi-institutional Mass General Brigham IRB since 2007, serving as an IRB Chair since 2014.

**Eric Weinhandl PhD, MS**

Dr. Weinhandl is a senior epidemiologist at the Chronic Disease Research Group (CDRG) and an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Minnesota. He earned his PhD in epidemiology and his MS in biostatistics at the University of Minnesota. He has conducted research in chronic kidney disease for over 15 years, with his primary areas of expertise being chronic dialysis, home hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, pharmacoepidemiology of end-stage kidney disease, and health care policy in all stages of CKD. Dr. Weinhandl is an expert in Medicare regulations and payment policies regarding outpatient dialysis. Prior to rejoining CDRG in May 2020, Eric worked at Fresenius Medical Care North America, where he was a Senior Director of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and NxStage Medical, where he was a Clinical Epidemiologist. He currently serves both the United States Renal Data System (USRDS) and the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR).