

# KIDNEY CARE QUALITY ALLIANCE

## ATTACHMENT 6: KCOA STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (alphabetically by organization)

### **Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.**

Todd Eric Minga MD

### **American Kidney Fund, Inc.**

Gail Wick, MHSA, BSN, RN, CNN

### **American Nephrology Nurses Association**

Donna Bednarski MSN, RN, ANP-BC, CNN, CNP

### **American Society of Nephrology**

Daniel E. Weiner MD, MS

### **Atlantic Dialysis Management Services, LLC**

J. Ganesh Bhat MD

### **DaVita, Inc.**

George R. Aronoff MD, MS, FACP, FASN, Co-Chair

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

James "Mike" Guffey

### **Fresenius Medical Care**

Lorien Dalrymple MD, MPH

### **Renal Healthcare Association**

Robert S. Bomstad MS, BS, RN

### **Renal Physicians Association**

Keith A. Bellovich DO, Co-Chair

### **Renal Support Network**

Lori Hartwell

### **Rogosin Institute**

Jeffrey Silberzweig MD

### **Satellite Healthcare**

Brigitte Schiller MD

### **U.S. Renal Care, Inc.**

Mary Dittrich MD, FASN

### **Vifor Pharma**

Amy Barton PharmD, MHI

## KCQA STEERING COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

(alphabetically by last name)

### CO-CHAIRS:

#### **George R. Aronoff MD, MS, FACP, FASN (DaVita)**

George R. Aronoff MD, is vice president, Clinical Affairs for DaVita Kidney Care, and is the former Chief Medical Officer of Renal Ventures Management, LLC. He graduated from Indiana University with a BA in Chemistry and received his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Science degree in Pharmacology from Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Aronoff served as the Division Chief in Nephrology and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs at the University of Louisville. He was a member of the Board of Directors of both the Renal Physicians Association and the Kidney Health Initiative; a public-private partnership of the American Society of Nephrology and the Food and Drug Administration of the United States. He has served as KCQA Co-Chair since 2017.

#### **Keith A. Bellovich DO (Renal Physicians Association)**

Dr. Keith A. Bellovich is a practicing clinical nephrologist in Detroit MI. A graduate of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Bellovich completed his residency and fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. He is board certified in nephrology, with special interests in chronic kidney disease prevention, renal transplantation, diabetic kidney disease, renal calculi, and hypertension. He has formerly served as Training Program Director of the Nephrology Fellowship and currently as Chief Medical Officer at Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit. A board member of the Renal Physicians Association since 2012, Dr. Bellovich is currently President-Elect for the Renal Physicians Association. He has been involved with Kidney Care Partners' oversight and quality- and measure-related work for the past several years, serving on KCP's Operations Committee from 2016-2021 and as KCP's representative on the National Quality Forum's Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) from 2017-2019, where he provided insight and recommendations on metrics being proposed for use in the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP).

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

#### **Amy Barton PharmD, MHI (Vifor Pharma)**

Dr. Amy Barton is a nephrology-trained clinical pharmacist. Prior to joining Vifor Pharma as the Medical Director for Nanomedicine, Dr. Barton had a 20+ year career as an academic researcher focused on translational investigations of intravenous iron-carbohydrate nanomedicines, vitamin D formulations, phosphate binders as well as health literacy and NSAID avoidance in chronic kidney disease. She was previously funded by the Food and Drug Administration to advance bioequivalence evaluation for intravenous iron-carbohydrate nanomedicines using in vitro and pre-clinical models and to reevaluate OTC labeling for NSAIDs. During her tenure as an academician, Dr. Barton maintained a clinical practice providing care to patients across the chronic kidney disease continuum with a focus on the in-center hemodialysis population. From 2012-2020, Dr. Barton served as the Chair of the Pharmacy Working Group for the NIH National Kidney Disease Education Program. Dr. Barton served on several Technical Expert Panels for CMS, most recently in 2017 focused on a medication reconciliation QIP for dialysis. Dr. Barton is also serving in a leadership capacity for the Advancing Kidney Health through Optimizing Medication Management, an initiative coordinated at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. The initiative is seeking to engage pharmacists in the CKD care team to conduct comprehensive medication management with strategies focused on key metrics for evidence-based pharmacotherapy. Dr. Barton is a fellow of the American Society of Nephrology, National Kidney Foundation and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

#### **Donna Bednarski MSN, RN, ANP-BC, CNN, CNP (American Nephrology Nurses Association)**

Donna Bednarski has been working in nephrology for 39 years. She is a nurse practitioner in a nurse-run dialysis access center at Harper University Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. A past president of the American Nephrology Nurses Association, Ms. Bednarski utilizes advanced knowledge and clinical expertise in providing and coordinating dialysis access planning and management to patients with CKD and ESRD. She designs, implements, coordinates, and evaluates educational programs for patients and families and healthcare providers, and has experience in the development of department,

hospital, and system-wide quality improvement initiatives, including the implementation and monitoring of quality measures. As a clinical site lead for the electronic medical record system, she was instrumental in the development of quality metrics making the transition to The Joint Commission safety measures monitoring and Meaningful Use requirements seamless. Ms. Bednarski has been actively involved in Kidney Care Partners' regulatory, legislative, and quality workgroups for the past several years and has previously served on KCQA's Steering Committee.

#### **J. Ganesh Bhat MD (Atlantic Dialysis)**

Dr. Bhat received his M.D. degree from the University of Mysore in India and completed his fellowship training in nephrology at New York University Medical Center. Dr. Bhat is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Internal Medicine in Nephrology. He has worked at most major medical and educational institutions in New York City area for over three decades. He has held several administrative and leadership positions in various hospitals in the New York area, including interim Chairman of Medicine and Chief Medical Officer at North Shore University Hospital at Forest Hills, New York. He has an avid interest in research and has published numerous research papers on kidney diseases. Dr. Bhat is co-founder of Atlantic Dialysis Management Services, a New York-based dialysis chain providing high-quality dialysis services to End Stage Renal Disease patients. He is currently serving as a director on Kidney Care Council and Kidney Care Partners, Washington, D.C.-based industry groups working with the government to improve patient care quality on dialysis. He was appointed to the Public Health and Health Planning Council of New York State by the governor, served on various committees, and chaired the Committee on Health Personnel from 2014-2015. Dr. Bhat is currently Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Physiology and Chancellor of Xavier University School of Medicine in Oranjestad, Aruba. He is also a trustee of the Xavier University Foundation.

#### **Robert S. Bomstad MS, BS, RN (Renal Healthcare Association)**

Robert S. Bomstad has been in the healthcare industry for over 33 years. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer for Dialysis Centers of Northwest Arkansas, LLC with over 21 years' experience in the renal industry and the Vice President of Joint Ventures for Washington Regional Medical System. Dialysis Centers of Northwest Arkansas, LLC is a small independent joint venture with Washington Regional Medical System, Mercy Health of Northwest Arkansas and a group of Nephrologists. DCNA provides care for approximately 380 patients in 5 outpatient centers offering in-center hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis. Mr. Bomstad is a Registered Nurse with a background in Medical/Surgical Nursing and Emergency/Trauma. He earned his Associate Degree in Nursing from North Iowa Area Community College, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Health Science (Healthcare Administration Program) both from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Bomstad serves as a Director at Large for the Renal Healthcare Association Board of Directors as well as the HSAG Network 13 Council Chair. Mr. Bomstad has a strong commitment to ensuring that patients have access to the highest quality of care and values the importance of data driven decision making within his organization.

#### **Lorien Dalrymple MD, MPH (Fresenius Medical Care)**

Dr. Lorien Dalrymple is Vice President, Global Head of Population Health in the Fresenius Medical Care Global Medical Office. Board certified in nephrology, Dr. Dalrymple received her bachelor's degree from Duke University, her medical degree from the University of Colorado, and her Master of Public Health from the University of Washington. She is co-chair of the National Quality Forum Renal Standing Committee and co-chair of the KHI ESKD Global Data Standard Workgroup.

#### **Mary Dittrich MD, FASN (U.S. Renal Care)**

Mary Dittrich MD, FASN is Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at US Renal Care (USRC). She is also a practicing nephrologist and co-founded Boise Kidney and Hypertension Institute. In 2010 her practice was part of the team that received the Renal Physicians Association Practice Excellence Award for outstanding CKD care management. She has taken part in various clinical research trials at USRC and Boise Kidney, and served as the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board for Liberty Dialysis, Inc. She has also co-founded numerous dialysis clinics in the states of Idaho and Alaska. Dr. Dittrich served as Chief Medical Officer of Liberty Health Partners and Senior Medical Director of Remedy Partners now Signify Health, a leading healthcare platform designed to power and

create value-based payment programs. She currently serves as president of Liberty Administrative Services and CMO for Glacier Management Services in Alaska. Dr. Dittrich earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Creighton University and attended medical school at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, followed by Residency and Fellowship at University of Washington School of Medicine. She is board certified in Nephrology and Internal Medicine.

### **James "Mike" Guffey (Dialysis Patient Citizens)**

Mike is an ESRD patient who received a transplant in January 2012. Prior to that, he had been on in-center hemodialysis since "crashing" into dialysis without prior warning nearly four years earlier in April 2008. Mike has served on the Board of Dialysis Patient Citizens since December 2010, including as the Co-Treasurer and now Treasurer since 2012. He is also a Board Member and the Treasurer for the DPC Education Center. As part of his role with DPC, he currently serves as their representative and voting member with KCP and was their representative to KCQA during development its Medical Reconciliation measure. He is currently in the midst of his second term on the National Quality Forum's Renal Standing Committee. Mike has been employed for the past 30 years at a regional financial institution in the Midwest, where he has been the Business Continuity Planner for the past 10 years. As a result of that role, he has also served on the Kidney Community Emergency Response Pandemic & Infectious Disease Committee, including as the Co-Chair since 2016. Mike has a bachelor's degree in Magazine Journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

### **Lori Hartwell (Renal Support Network)**

Lori Hartwell has been living with kidney disease since age two, having survived more than 50 surgeries, 13 years of dialysis, and now living with her fourth kidney transplant. Ms. Hartwell founded the patient-led Renal Support Network in 1993 to instill "health, happiness, and hope" into the lives of fellow patients. RSN empowers people who have kidney disease to become knowledgeable about their illness, proactive in their care, hopeful about their future, and make friendships that last a lifetime. She is the author of *Chronically Happy - Joyful Living in Spite of Chronic Illness*, an inspirational guidebook for handling lifestyle and numerous other non-medical issues that come up in the course of chronic disease and the host of KidneyTalk Podcast. Ms. Hartwell also works with elected officials and regulatory agencies to advise on how policies impact people with chronic illnesses. She has served on the Governor's Rehabilitation Council for the state of California, is former Chair of the Patient Advisory Committee for the Southern California Renal Disease Council, and currently serves on the Operations Committee of Kidney Care Partners.

### **Todd E. Minga MD (Akebia)**

Dr. Todd Minga is Medical Director of Clinical Research at Akebia Therapeutics. He is a nephrologist and clinical researcher in the areas of anemia and mineral and bone disorder. He has previously served as Medical Director of Nephrology for IQVIA, as a facility Medical Director at DaVita, Inc., and as President and Medical Director/Principal Investigator for the Nephrology Associates Research Center in Florida. As a practicing Nephrologist and Medical Director of a dialysis unit, Dr. Minga has a long-standing interest in quality and performance measurement and real-world expertise with the ESRD QIP and the measures therein. His practice of Nephrology for 20 years has afforded him a profound understanding of the concerns unique to the ESRD environment and how the quality of the individual measures included in accountability programs greatly impacts all parties, most notably the patient.

### **Jeffrey Silberzweig MD (Rogovin Institute)**

In his role leading The Rogovin Institute's clinical programs, Dr. Silberzweig oversees the care of approximately 1,500 patients with chronic kidney disease treated by all modes of dialysis and approximately 20,000 patients with earlier stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD). As President of The Institute's Governing Body, he oversees Rogovin's assessment of the quality of care delivered based on clinical and laboratory findings and self-reported experience of care. Recently, Dr. Silberzweig's work has focused on assessing the impact of COVID-19 on patients with kidney disease. As co-chair of the American Society of Nephrology's COVID-19 Response team, he has been responsible for educational and advocacy efforts to help patients with chronic kidney disease and those who care for them manage its impacts, reporting on the high incidence rate of acute kidney injury in the hospitalized COVID-19 patients, the importance of COVID-19 vaccination in dialysis patients, practical steps to

minimize risk of COVID-19 disease in dialysis patients, and rationing care in patients with chronic kidney disease during the pandemic.

### **Brigitte Schiller MD (Satellite Healthcare)**

Dr. Schiller has been Chief Medical Officer at Satellite Healthcare since 2010. In this role, Dr. Schiller is responsible for Quality, Physician Leadership, and Research & Development. She oversees the development and implementation of the quality strategy, its execution, and organizational infrastructure. Dr. Schiller serves as Chief of Staff, and as such oversees more than 80 medical directors and over 400 referring physicians. As CMO, Dr. Schiller is responsible for the delivery of care to more than 8,000 dialysis patients in 80 US centers; more than 20% of these patients are on home dialysis. She believes in individualized care and humanizing dialysis to allow each patient to live the life they hoped for. She directs Satellite's clinical research efforts, which by deliberate policy are applied pragmatic real-world studies directed towards improvement in patient experience and outcomes and the development of new care delivery models both for home and in-center patients. Under her leadership, Satellite Healthcare has achieved the highest quality ratings in the CMS 5 Star Ratings for several years. Dr. Schiller has participated as investigator in multiple FDA trials, including pivotal drug and device trials in ESRD care over the past 15 years. She is a published author in many areas of ESRD care, including home dialysis. She is known as an inspirational leader who is determined to transform the care of patients with chronic kidney disease through quality improvement efforts, innovative drugs and devices as well as alternative care models unchanged since 1973. She has been a consultant to various early-stage and established healthcare companies. Dr. Schiller serves as an Adjunct Lecturer in the Division of Nephrology at Stanford University. She is a frequent invited speaker at national and international meetings. She has received teaching and research awards including the 2017 Woman of Influence award for executives. She serves on the Expert Panel for the USRD database. Dr. Schiller graduated MD summa cum laude from the University of Freiburg, Germany and, in addition to postgraduate training at the University of Munich, completed residency and research fellowships at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Chicago, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. She is the mother of two sons, loves opera, travel, gardening, and the endorphin rush with exercise.

### **Daniel E. Weiner MD, MS (American Society of Nephrology)**

Dr. Daniel E. Weiner is a nephrologist at Tufts Medical Center and Associate Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. His clinical interests include home and in-center dialysis, hypertension and CKD. His research has focused on cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease in CKD; clinical trials in CKD, dialysis and hypertension; decision-making in advanced CKD; and policy. He works closely with the American Society of Nephrology on kidney disease policy, and he has led the ASN's quality committee, helping to evaluate and interpret the impact of quality metrics on kidney care. In this role, he has also worked closely with the kidney community of the concepts behind the Kidney Care Choices model. Dr. Weiner represents ASN at Kidney Care Partners, is Dialysis Clinic Inc.'s Medical Director of Clinical Research, and is the Editor-in-Chief of the National Kidney Foundation's journal, *Kidney Medicine and Primer on Kidney Diseases*, the 8th edition of which will be published in late 2021. He has been highly involved with Kidney Care Partners' policy, quality, and performance measurement-related work for the past several years.

### **Gail S. Wick MHSA, BSN, RN, CNNe (American Kidney Fund)**

Gail Wick began her career in nephrology nursing in 1970 as a member of the nursing staff that helped open the first renal ICU and transplant unit in Georgia, located at Grady Memorial Hospital. Until 2016, she worked as a consultant for ESRD-related care, quality, education, and policy issues, contracting with dozens of freestanding and hospital-based for profit and not-for-profit dialysis clinics throughout the United States, as well as with manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies in the areas of new product utilization and education. Previously, Ms. Wick served as Vice President for Nursing Services at DaVita, Inc., where she was responsible for nursing manpower, care, and practice for more than 540 dialysis facilities throughout the United States. Ms. Wick also worked for Fresenius USA, a dialysis product company, as Director of Client Services. She has also held numerous vice president positions at Fresenius Medical Care, North America, including Vice President of Clinical Quality Management,

Clinical Services, Regulatory Affairs and Technical Services; Vice President of Corporate Marketing and Communications; and Vice President of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning. In addition to serving as the president of the American Nephrology Nurses Association both in 1987-1988 and 2002-2003 and her involvement in numerous other organizations, Ms. Wick has had over 50 articles and chapters published in professional journals and textbooks. She has given over 600 presentations in the United States and internationally. Her continued commitment to the care and welfare of persons with renal disease, as well as their access to optimal treatment and care is evidenced by her service on the Board of Trustees of the American Kidney Fund, where she held the office of Chair and continues to serve on numerous committees. She recently received the honor of being designated Trustee Emeritus. She has been actively involved with Kidney Care Partners and KCQA since their inception and currently serves on numerous policy focused workgroups and steering committees, including those addressing issues such as the ESRD Quality Incentive Program, Prospective Payment System, and Innovation policy.