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Adebola Adeleye, DNP

Dr. Adebola Adeleye is an Advanced Practicing Nurse who currently works as a Nurse Consultant at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In this role she serves as the CMS Care Transitions & Post-Acute Care Affinity Group Champion and the clinical lead for the ESRD Network program. She oversees the CMS ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) work and has also led the care coordination work in the Quality Innovation Network (QIN) Quality Improvement Organization program (QIO) program.

Prior to joining CMS, Dr. Adeleye worked as a Care Transitions Nurse Practitioner with a Community-based Care Transitions Organization in Maryland. In that capacity, she helped establish Care Transition Programs in several hospitals, and worked with the hospitals to identify the causes of hospital readmissions and implement strategies to prevent unnecessary admissions and readmissions. She also provided supervision and leadership to the staff at the organization. As a Family Nurse Practitioner, Dr. Adeleye has a wide range of clinical experience with Pediatrics, Adults, and Geriatrics.

Dr. Adeleye completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at Monmouth University, W. Long Branch, NJ. She holds a Masters of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner Track) from Monmouth University, W. Long Branch, NJ; and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, NJ. Dr. Adeleye maintains her clinical practice as a Nurse Practitioner and serves as an Adjunct Faculty at the University of Maryland’s School of Nursing.
Traci Archibald is the Director of the Division of ESRD, Population and Community Health within the Quality Improvement and Innovation Group, currently leading the Quality Improvement Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), ESRD Network and Quality Payment Program-Support programs. Ms. Archibald has been with CMS for 10 years, previously leading the care transitions quality improvement efforts for the QIO program which aims to improve the quality of care transitions and to reduce 30-day readmissions for individuals across the country. Ms. Archibald received her BS in Occupational Therapy from Boston University’s, Sargent College of Allied Health Professions and her MBA from the University of Baltimore. Ms. Archibald has 17 years of clinical experience working as an Occupational Therapist in a variety of practice settings, and has also served as the Clinical Specialist for Quality and Accreditation for a rehabilitation department in Baltimore.
Dr. Allen hails from the Carolina Low Country and grew up on the Marine bases at Parris Island and Quantico. He attended Florida State University, received his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and trained in psychiatry at the Institute of Living where he served as chief resident. He went on to serve on the faculty of Cornell and later New York University School of Medicine. While at NYU, he developed the model Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program at Bellevue Hospital, mentioned in New York Magazine’s “Best Hospitals in New York.” Currently, in addition to his practice at the Johnson Depression Center, he is responsible for psychiatric emergency services at University of Colorado Hospital and serves as medical director for Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners.

Dr. Allen is a national or international authority in several areas including suicide and agitation, Bipolar Disorder and psychiatric emergency services. He was a principal investigator in the NIMH Systematic Treatment Enhancement Program for Bipolar Disorder, the largest study of bipolar disorder ever conducted. He developed and validated the Clinical Global Impression Scale for Schizoaffective Disorder used in the paliperidone registration trials. He has been a principal investigator for many pharmaceutical studies and has led investigator training in 17 languages at more than 60 investigator meetings worldwide.

He received a NARSAD Independent Investigator award for the study of nicotine and agitation. He was a consultant and principal investigator from the inception of the inhaled loxapine program for agitation through FDA approval in the US and post-marketing studies in Europe.

In the field of suicide care, he has been a principal investigator for four large studies including over 7158* suicidal individuals. These include STEP-BD, the Psychiatric Emergency Research Collaboration, the NIMH Emergency Department Safety Assessment and Follow-up Evaluation study (ED SAFE), the largest suicide intervention trial ever conducted and PRISM, a Military
Operational Medicine Research Program study of suicide screening in military primary care settings. He is an author of US or world guidelines for the management of problems in these and several other areas.

He was a member the NIH Emergency Medicine Roundtable and has served as president of the American Association and vice president of the International Association for Emergency Psychiatry, chair of the American Psychiatric Association Task Force on Psychiatric Emergency Services, lead expert for the Expert Consensus Guideline for the Management of Behavioral Emergencies, member of the American College of Emergency Physicians clinical policy committee, steering committee member for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-TALK), president of the board of the Carson J Spencer Foundation, and consultant to the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Joint Commission, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and NIMH. As a grantee of the Colorado Trust, he helped to enact legislation creating the Colorado Suicide Prevention Commission and serves as a Commissioner.

He is the author or editor of three books, former editor of Emergency Psychiatry, a reviewer for the Cochrane Collaborative and is currently associate editor of General Hospital Psychiatry and editor-in-chief of the Colorado Journal of Psychiatry and Psychology. Dr. Allen has over 100 original articles and his work has been consistently cited over 200 times a year for many years. He is board certified in psychiatry and addictions. He is a professor in the departments of both Psychiatry and Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and has been recognized by the Colorado Psychiatric Society with their Outstanding Achievement Award and by the American Psychiatric Association as a Distinguished Life Fellow.

Craig Behm, MBA

Craig Behm is the Executive Director for CRISP Maryland, the state-designated health information exchange. In that role, Craig leads all statewide HIE activities, including customer
engagement, product implementation, and reporting services. He works directly with state agencies to support Maryland’s Total Cost of Care Model and population health programs. Craig is also an instructor at UMBC’s master’s program in Health Information Technology, where he teaches quality and process improvement.

Jane Brock, MD, MSPH

Dr. Jane Brock is a medical director at Telligen, the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization or QIN-QIO for Colorado, Iowa, and Illinois. The QIO program is one of the largest federal programs dedicated to improving health quality at the local level, and is funded and led by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services. Dr. Brock has served as the clinical director for the National Coordinating Center, or NCC, that provides technical assistance to the QIO program since 2014. In this role she provides clinical perspectives and guidance around the CMS quality priorities included in the QIO program’s scope of work. These priorities include reducing adverse drug events, promoting better care coordination, spreading diabetes self-management education classes, and improving screening rates for depression and alcohol misuse among fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries.

Dr. Brock spent 18 years as a general practice physician and assistant director of the urgent care department at the Boulder Medical Center, and provided occupational medical services as the medical director of the medical department of a Lexmark printer manufacturing facility.

Marjory Cannon, MD

Marjory Cannon, M.D. is a Medical Officer in the Quality Improvement and Innovation Group within the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). She is a Board-Certified Family Medicine Physician with 14 years of clinical experience in hospital and outpatient practice, including working for Federally-Qualified Health Centers and with the DOD, prior to joining CMS. Currently, she serves as a clinical consultant
for programs lead by CMS that focus on improving the safety and quality of care received by Medicare beneficiaries.

A large portion of that work includes acting as a liaison in the many interagency programs in which CMS has embarked with its federal partners, especially those that center on prevention and reduction of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). She served as project lead for the HAI Agency Priority Goal, a workgroup encompassing representatives across the Department of Health and Human Services, has been a past chair of the National Plan to Prevent HAI's in ESRD Facilities and contributing author to a published article derived from this work. Currently, Dr. Cannon serves as federal member on the Presidential Advisory Council to Combat Antimicrobial-Resistant Bacteria, a One-Health effort highlighting the global importance of preventing antibiotic-resistance and spreading best practices in Antibiotic Stewardship and is the clinical lead to the BFCC-QIOs as they review claims for Medicare Part A Payment in accordance with the Two-Midnight Rule. In January 2019, Dr. Cannon was named as an Executive Champion to the Care Transitions and Post-Acute Care Affinity Group.

Michelle Cornette, PhD

Dr. Cornette is Lead Public Health Advisor in the Suicide Prevention Branch at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Past Executive Director of the American Association of Suicidology. Dr. Cornette previously supported the Research & Program Evaluation and Data & Surveillance Divisions at the Department of Defense Suicide Prevention Office and was Military Suicide SME at the Center for Deployment Psychology. She spent 10 years in the VA system, where she was VISN 12 Suicide Prevention Director, responsible for overseeing suicide prevention activities at the 7 VA facilities in VISN 12. Dr. Cornette has received Federal and private funding for her program of research on suicide risk, and she has presented and published extensively on the topics of civilian and military suicide prevention.
Leigh Ann Eagle is the Executive Director the Living Well Center of Excellence, Project Living and is the Project Director of the Chronic Disease ACL grant, and is a member of regional planning groups on Chronic Disease. She is also the Director of the Health & Wellness Program at MAC, Inc., an area agency on aging that serves the four lower Eastern Shore counties. Ms. Eagle is responsible for all aspects of program design and management for the MAC, Inc. Health & Wellness Center, including public and private grants management. She manages a wide range of federal, state, and private foundation grants. MAC Inc., under Leigh Ann’s leadership, is connecting healthcare organizations with aging and community resources to coordinate evidence-based programs of care. She is a Master Trainer for Stepping On, Chronic Disease Self-Management, and is certified in Patient Navigation. Leigh Ann was runner-up recipient of The John A. Hartford Foundation 2017 Business Innovation Award, and together with Peninsula Regional Medical Center, received the Health Quality Innovator of the Year Award in Population Health Innovations in October 2017. She is also a co-creator of the Stepping Up Your Nutrition malnutrition session, which received the International Council on Active Aging® 2017 Innovators Achievement Award and an n4a 2018 Aging Innovations Award in July 2018.
Kathryn Fiddler, BSN, MSN, DNP

Dr. Fiddler is a clinical and operational leader with diverse experience with the military and health care. She has proven success directing teams and implementing population health program through evidence-based strategies. She has successfully achieved development of multidisciplinary collaborative clinical, provider and health system teams leading to measurable improvements in value-based care through practice change and transformation. She is presently responsible for all of the Peninsula Regional Health System care management teams within PRMC and in the community, to include a team of embedded care managers within the ACO, a mobile clinic on wheels, Paramedic in home visitation program, and a collaborative with the Area Agency on Aging focused on evidence based education for chronic disease. As part of her role she leads the Care Transformation Organization within the Peninsula Regional Clinically Integrated Network and the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI) grant through CMS. Dr. Fiddler recently completed work member of a national workgroup focused on developing an online care coordination toolkit with the American Association of Ambulatory Care Nurses. In a prior role she was the senior director for the largest Patient-Centered Medical Home program in the country, and instrumental in the success of CareFirst’s $24 million dollar Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation grant supporting 35,000 Medicare beneficiaries.
Kate Goodrich, MD

Kate is the director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) and the CMS Chief Medical Officer.

Kate has been in the role of Director, Quality Measurement & Value-Based Incentives Group (QMVIG) (previously called the Quality Measurement and Health Assessment Group) since August 2012. In this role she has been responsible for the quality measurement and public reporting work, the Marketplace quality work portfolio, the value based incentives programs, implementation of MACRA and developing collaborations with other CMS components, HHS agencies and external stakeholders. Kate has also been a champion of LEAN and helping to infuse the culture of LEAN throughout the group and the component.

Prior to her role in QMVIG, Kate served as the Senior Advisor to the Director of CCSQ and the CMS Chief Medical Officer. Prior to this she served as a Senior Medical Officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, where she managed a portfolio of work on comparative effectiveness research and quality measurement and improvement.
Ms. Hamilton has been Director of Quality Management at Einstein Physicians Montgomery for the past three years. Most of her career was with Johns Hopkins Health System at the main hospital and in leadership positions with Johns Hopkins Community Physicians. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Towson University and a Masters degree from Johns Hopkins. Her areas of expertise include improving quality of care through standardized workflows and care team engagement and care coordination with a focus on patients at high risk for complications.

V. Robyn Kinebrew is from Cincinnati, Ohio and received her Master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from the University of Cincinnati. For many years Robyn has been a stay-at-home mother of three boys. She currently works in Human Resources. Robyn and her
husband are native Cincinnatians who have been married for 22 years. They are parents of a senior in High School and twin sons who are seniors in College. She currently serves on the American Board of Pediatrics Family Leadership Committee.

Richard Knight, MBA

Richard A. Knight is President of the American Association of Kidney Patients’ Board of Directors. He is a former hemodialysis patient who received a kidney transplant approximately eleven years ago. He is former Vice President of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) and former Chair of the Public Policy Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Mid Atlantic Renal Coalition (MARC). He was recently appointed to the Steering Committee of the Kidney Precision Medicine Project (KPMP) housed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

Mr. Knight has a background in public policy and Congressional operations based on both his professional experience on Capitol Hill where he served in various roles including communications, policy and Legislative Director as well his advocacy work as a kidney transplant patient. While working in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Knight was served as a liaison to the Congressional Black Caucus for his Member of Congress and was involved in substantial work with the House Energy and Commerce and Small Business Committees. Mr. Knight’s knowledge of Executive Branch agency budget and procurement policies is based on direct experience as a Federal government contractor and as a ten-year co-chair of the Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce annual regional government procurement fair.

Mr. Knight received his MBA from the University of Virginia Darden School Of Business and his BA from Hampton University. He is a business strategist, providing patient engagement
consulting for healthcare organizations and businesses developing tools designed to leverage patient input and preferences in their care plans and quality measures. As a small business owner, he is heavily involved in business and education issues through multiple executive networks in the Washington, D.C. region. He serves as adjunct professor at Bowie State University (BSU). He is a founding member of BSU’s College of Business Advisory Council.

As a national kidney patient advocate, Mr. Knight was recently appointed to serve a member of the National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Advisory Council and serves as a designated AAKP Board representative to the National Quality Forum (NQF) Measure Application’s Partnership Hospital Workgroup as well as the Board of Directors of the National Council of Patient Information and Education (NCPIE). He has served as a member of four Technical Expert Panels (TEPs) for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Assistance (CMS). He was member of CMS TEPs focusing on Emergency Department Readmissions Hospital Readmissions, the Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative and recently on the End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Facility Compare Star Ratings for the Arbor Research Collaborative for Health and the University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center. He is a founding member of the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Health Information Technology (HIT) Project administered by the National Renal Administrators Association and the End Stage Renal Disease Forum and serves on the National Kidney Disease Education Program’s (NKDEP) Health Information Technology (HIT) Working Group.

Shari M. Ling, MD

Dr. Shari M. Ling is currently the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Deputy Chief Medical Officer serving in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), responsible for assisting the CMS Chief Medical Officer in the Agency's pursuit of higher quality health care, healthier populations, and lower cost through quality improvement. Dr. Ling's long-standing focus is on the achievement of meaningful health outcomes through delivery of high quality beneficiary-centered care across all care settings, with a special interest in the care of
persons with multiple chronic conditions and functional limitations, and reducing health disparities.

Dr. Ling has served as the lead coordinator and facilitator of the CCSQ Measures Forum. Dr. Ling represents CMS on the Health and Human Services (HHS) Multiple Chronic Conditions workgroup, and the National Quality Forum Measures Application Partnership Post-acute Care/Long-term Care workgroup, and chairs the Measures and Data sources sub-workgroup for the HHS Action Plan for Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Prevention in Long-term Care facilities. Dr. Ling also serves as the clinical sub-group lead for the HHS National Alzheimer's Project Act.

Dr. Ling is a Geriatrician and Rheumatologist who received her medical training at Georgetown University School of Medicine where she graduated as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Dr. Ling received her clinical training in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology at Georgetown University Medical Center, and completing Geriatric Medicine studies at Johns Hopkins University., remaining on faculty at Johns Hopkins for 5 years, after which she joined the Intramural Research Program of the National Institutes of Health at the National Institute on Aging as a Staff Clinician for 8 years studying human aging and age-associated chronic diseases with attention to musculoskeletal conditions and mobility function.

Dr. Ling continues to serve as a part-time faculty member in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and in the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the University of Maryland. Dr. Ling volunteers at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Baltimore. She is a Gerontologist who received her training in Direct Service from the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center, at the University of Southern California, and served as the co-director of the Andrus Older Adult Counseling Center.

Dr. Ling resides in Maryland, is married and has two children.
Joseph Lugo

Joseph L. Lugo serves within the Center for Integrated Programs within U.S. Administration for Community Living. He is currently serving as the Acting Director for the Office of Integrated Care Innovation. Joseph joined AoA in 2006 and has served as the Team Lead for multiple initiatives including Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), No Wrong Door System, Person Centered Counseling Training Program and Veteran Directed Care Program.

Prior to joining ACL, Joseph served in the Division of Planning, Research & Development at the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA). In his tenure at the IDoA, he lead the roll-out of Illinois’ ADRC initiative, Illinois’ implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program and served as Bureau Chief over the aged/disabled Medicaid waiver program. His experience prior to this time was as a budget analyst for the Office of Management and Budget under the Executive Office of the Governor.

He received a Master’s Degree in Gerontology in 2002 and a Graduate Certificate in Public Management Practices in 1997 both from the University of Illinois at Springfield. In conjunction with the Wharton School of Business, he participated in the Global Leadership and Organizational Behavior Effectiveness Research Program (GLOBE) and Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Program. In addition, Joseph was selected as James H. Dunn Fellow in 1997 and a Learning to Lead Fellow in 1995.

Joseph and his wife Michelle reside with their family in Warrenton, Virginia.
Paul McGann, MD

In 2002, Dr. McGann joined the full-time staff of CMS, and in July 2007 was promoted to Deputy Chief Medical Officer. He has contributed to the ongoing re-design of the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network Program, identification and reduction of health care disparities, and introduction of the principles of geriatric medicine into numerous CMS programs.

He received a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry and a master’s degree in Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He graduated from the McGill Faculty of Medicine in Montreal and completed both internal medicine and geriatric medicine training in Canada, where he practiced geriatric medicine in academic medical settings. Dr. McGann has been board-certified in both internal medicine and geriatric medicine in the United States and in Canada. In 1995, Dr. McGann became the founding Clinical Director of the J. Paul Sticht Center on Aging at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. He was named the first American Geriatrics Society-Health Care Financing Administration (AGS-HCFA) Health Policy Scholar in 1999 and contributed to the development of the active Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Program. Dr. McGann received the prestigious Nascher-Manning Award from the American Geriatrics Society and the CMS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. In September 2016, Dr. McGann, together with co-award winners Dennis Wagner and Jean Moody-Williams, was named a winner of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal from the Partnership for Public Service as Federal Employee of the Year. Also in September 2016, he received The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Pinnacle Award, and in October 2016 Dr. McGann was the recipient of the McGill University Medicine Alumni Global Community Service Award.

He is the co-author of a chapter on “The Key Elements of Effective Collaborative Design” in the book All In: Using Healthcare Collaboratives to Save Lives and Improve Care.
Andrew Narva, MD, is the director of the National Kidney Disease Education Program at the National Institutes of Health. Prior to 2006, he served as director of the Kidney Disease Program for the Indian Health Service. In 2002 Dr. Narva was recognized by the IHS as Physician Leader of the Year and by the US Public Health Service as the Clinical Physician of the Year. In 2003 he received the USPHS Distinguished Service Medal, the highest recognition awarded to commissioned officers. Dr. Narva received the 2015 Nostradamus Award and the 2018 Public Service Award from the National Kidney Foundation. Although Dr. Narva now works at NIH, he serves as the Chief Clinical Consultant for Nephrology for IHS and provides care for patients at Zuni Pueblo through telemedicine and at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He serves on the Nephrology Subspecialty Board of the American Board of internal Medicine.
Jade Perdue-Puli, MPA

Jade has spent the past fifteen years serving as a catalyst for healthcare transformation in those areas with the most vulnerable populations. Her government career began in the field of Organ Donation and Transplantation at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) where she, as part of a dynamic team of dedicated professionals saved 15,000 additional lives by culling and spreading best practices of high performing organ procurement organizations and transplant centers. Using that knowledge, she joined the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Quality Improvement Program where she led the CMS National Patient Safety Initiative, developed the QIO Learning & Action Network Model, and launched the Strategic Innovation Engine (SIE). Most recently, Jade joined the Division of Quality Improvement Innovations Model Testing at CMS as the Director which leads the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network, a program dedicated to reducing all cause harm in acute care hospitals nationally by 20%. Jade and her team also lead the American Indian Alaskan Native Healthcare Quality Initiative, an initiative that seeks to build system capacity and improve safety in Indian Health Service hospitals.

Jade holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Baltimore and resides in Catonsville, MD with her husband Bala, and seven year old twins Benjamin and Indira.
David F. Polakoff, MD, MSc

David F. Polakoff, MD, MSc is Professor of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences and Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Polakoff graduated from Stony Brook School of Medicine, and he earned a Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. He completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Boston University, and a clinical and research fellowship in Geriatric Medicine at Harvard Medical School and VA Boston.

Dr. Polakoff served as member of the Harvard Medical School faculty (1988-1998), where he developed and led the school’s continuing medical education in Geriatric Medicine, and he led the VA Boston’s program in comprehensive geriatric assessment.

Subsequently, Dr. Polakoff led two of the nation’s largest post-acute care providers as Chief Medical Officer – Mariner Health Care (1998-2005) and Genesis Health Care (2006-2007), introducing quality measurement and clinical accountability to hundreds of skilled nursing facilities, long term acute care hospitals, PACE sites and other post-acute providers. He also served as President of the American Medical Directors Association Foundation, creating the first practice-based research network for nursing home based research.

Since joining the University of Massachusetts in 2009, Dr. Polakoff has served as the CMO of MassHealth (the Massachusetts Medicaid program, 2009-2011) during the period when Massachusetts’ national-leading universal health care coverage was implemented, and the CMO of Commonwealth Medicine, the University’s public sector consulting business (2011-2018). At the same time Dr. Polakoff was Director of the UMass Center for Health Policy and Research.

Over his career, Dr. Polakoff has been the principal investigator of grants and contracts valued over $40M. He currently leads the Southern New England Practice Transformation Network,
one of 29 PTNs participating in CMS and CMMI’s Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative (TCPI).

Michael Schoenbaum, PhD

Michael Schoenbaum (PhD in Economics, University of Michigan, 1995) is Senior Advisor for Mental Health Services, Epidemiology, and Economics in the National Institute of Mental Health's Division of Services and Intervention Research. He conducts analyses of mental health burden, service use and costs, intervention opportunities, and other policy-related issues, in support of Institute decision-making; and he works to strengthen NIMH's relationships with public and private stakeholders, to increase the public health impact of NIMH-supported research. Dr. Schoenbaum's research has focused particularly on the benefits and costs of interventions to improve health and health care, evaluated from the perspectives of patients, providers, payers and society.
Carla K. Thomas, MS, CTRS, CPHQ

Carla Thomas (Director, Care Transitions, Health Quality Innovators) is a well-known partner and leader in care transitions initiatives. At Health Quality Innovators, the QIN-QIO for Maryland and Virginia, she leads the team that supports 17 community coalitions working to reduce hospitalizations.

Carla earned her master’s degree at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. Before joining HQI in 2003, she developed an extensive Alzheimer’s program and multiple quality improvement projects for a large nursing home corporation. Carla also has led QIO improvement initiatives for nursing homes and hospitals. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality with additional training in TeamSTEPPS® and coalition-building.
Elizabeth Truong

Elizabeth Truong is a Senior Advisor in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Leading the communications effort on the Quality Payment Program and other Center programs and initiatives, she is dedicated to providing education, outreach, and technical assistance to clinicians, consumers, and all of our valued stakeholders.

As Co-champion of the Person and Family Engagement Affinity Group, Elizabeth has strongly advocated for and supported CMS' innovative engagement with patients to hear their experiences with the healthcare system and to amplify their voices so that CMS programs can become more responsive to patient values.

Furthermore, during her fifteen years of public service at CMS, she developed and drafted Medicare payment policies to reimburse hospitals and clinicians (the Inpatient Prospective Payment System, the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System, and the Physician Fee Schedule).

For five years, she was an enthusiastic employee at CMS' Innovation Center where she served as the Senior Technical Advisor and Acting Division Director, leading the development and implementation of innovative payment models that bundled hospital and physician reimbursement to better align payment incentives. She also served as the Division Director for the budget and audit division at the Innovation Center. She completed her undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College and has a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Seema Verma currently serves as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and she is only the 15th person ever confirmed to the post. She was nominated by President Trump on November 29, 2016 – the seventh nomination by the President-elect – and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 13, 2017. As Administrator, Ms. Verma oversees a $1 trillion budget, 26% of the total federal budget, and administers healthcare programs for more than 130 million Americans every day.

A nationally recognized leader in health policy and operational design, she has guided healthcare policy in the public and private sector, working with states to build flexibility into their Medicaid programs to help them meet the diverse needs of their unique populations. Administrator Verma is a graduate of the University of Maryland, and holds a Master’s degree in Public Health with a concentration in health policy and management from Johns Hopkins University.

Her editorial commentaries have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and Health Affairs, and she also previously served as Vice President of Planning for the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana and most recently before heading CMS was President and CEO of SVC, Inc.
Dennis Wagner is the Director of the Quality Improvement and Innovation Group in the CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality. Dennis and his team support healthcare providers who are using systematic quality improvement to make care better in tens of thousands of hospitals, nursing homes, clinical practices and communities across the nation. This team of public and private quality improvers actively work to spread the best practices of highest performers, so that “best practices become common practice.”

Prior to his current role at CMS, Dennis served as the Associate Director for Campaign Leadership in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), and as Deputy Director and then Acting Director of CMS’ Office of Clinical Standards and Quality. Dennis worked for 12 years at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), including a final stint as Acting Director of HRSA’s Office of Health Information Technology and Quality. While at HRSA, Dennis led major national initiatives to increase the donation and transplantation of organs. After years of relatively flat national organ donation levels, this work generated unprecedented and lasting national increases in organ donation over a four-year period.

Dennis is a national and international leader in the fields of healthcare quality improvement, the environment and social marketing. He is a frequent keynote speaker at national conferences and symposia, and has received numerous honors and awards for his work in public service. Dennis is recognized by his peers as an enthusiastic, thoughtful and strategic person who believes in committing to and delivering on bold goals in work and in life.

Dennis received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Montana State University. He attended a one-room country school in rural Montana for grades K-8, where he learned that helping others to learn is one of the best ways to learn yourself. Dennis recently co-authored a chapter entitled “The Key Elements of Effective Collaborative Design” in the book, All In: Using Healthcare Collaboratives to Save Lives and Improve Care.

Dennis is also a recipient of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (known as the “Sammies”) 2016 Federal Employee of the Year Award. This award is from the nonprofit,
nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service and was awarded for CMS’s work on drastically reducing preventable medical harm on a national scale. The Sammies are a highly respected honor with a vigorous selection process and are known as the “Oscars” of federal service.

Jean Moody-Williams, RN, MPP

Jean D. Moody-Williams, RN, MPP, is the Acting Consortium Administrator for the Consortium for Quality Improvement and Survey & Certification Operations (CQISCO). CQISCO, in partnership with CCSQ, serves as the field lead for all quality, clinical and medical science issues and policies for CMS’ programs, as well as survey and certification. CQISCO accomplishes its goals through the work of four components: The Division of Quality Improvement (DQI) provides oversight of Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) and End-Stage Renal Disease Networks (NW) programs; The Division of Survey & Certification (DSC) provides oversight of state survey agencies, ensuring that providers such as hospitals, long-term care facilities, home health agencies and hospice organizations adhere to Medicare’s Conditions of Participation; Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) serve as medical and scientific leads for regional office quality improvement efforts and Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations (EPRO) is responsible for the overall coordination of information and logistics during a continuity or emergency event and for development of a robust test, training and exercise program.

Jean is on temporary assignment from the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), where she serves as the Deputy Director. At CCSQ, she was responsible for working with a great team to lead policy activities for Quality Improvement Programs, End Stage Renal Disease Networks, Survey and Certification, Quality Measurement and Health Assessment, Clinical Standards, Coverage and Analysis, Quality Innovations Models and many of the agency’s Value Based Purchasing and public reporting programs for hospitals, physicians and ambulatory settings.
Prior to this, she was the Group Director for the CMS Quality Improvement Group (QIG) in CMS and provided oversight for the nation's Quality Improvement Organizations, or QIOs, and the End Stage Renal Disease Quality Networks, which provides a national infrastructure to support technical assistance, learning and action networks, and a variety of value and quality improvement efforts across the entire continuum of care. She also served as the Director of Quality for CMS Medicaid Programs.

She is the author of the book, Transitions, Trust and Triumph: A Daily Devotion for Caregivers. She received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Hampton University and a Masters of Public Policy and Management from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Mark Williams, MD, FACP, MHM

Mark V. Williams, MD, FACP, MHM serves as Chief Quality & Transformation Officer for UK HealthCare, Director of the Center for Health Services Research, and Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Williams graduated from the Emory University School of Medicine as one of the original Woodruff Fellows and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. He also completed a Faculty Development Fellowship in General Medicine at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the Woodruff Leadership Academy at Emory, the Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice at Harvard, and the Advance Training Program in Health Care Delivery Improvement sponsored by Intermountain Healthcare's Institute for Health Care Delivery Research.

Dr. Williams established the first hospitalist program for a public hospital in 1998 at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, and built three of the largest academic hospitalist programs in the U.S. at Emory (1998-2007) and Northwestern (2007-2013) Universities, and the University of Kentucky (2014 to present). A Past President of the Society of Hospital Medicine,
Master of Hospital Medicine and the Founding Editor of the Journal of Hospital Medicine, he actively promotes teamwork in delivery of health care to hospitalized patients. Since his arrival at UK in January 2014, he facilitated growth of the Center for Health Services Research from 2 people to 50+ and helped secure more than $23 million in federal awards. This year his research accomplishments were recognized with designation as a UK University Research Professor.

He has been quoted in the NY Times, Wall Street Journal and Consumer Reports. With a history of more than $34 million in grants and contracts as principal or co-principal investigator and 150+ publications, Dr. Williams’ research focuses on implementation science, learning health systems, care transitions, teamwork and the role of health literacy in the delivery of health care.