Biographies


Mr. Allegretto’s focus is on quality variation improvement and connecting financial and clinical leaders has reduced expenses and variations in care and achieved physician and nursing buy-in within the three-hospital system.

Traci Archibald, OTR/L, MBA, Director, Division of ESRD Population & Community Health

Traci Archibald is the Director of the Division of ESRD, Population and Community Health, leading the Quality Improvement Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) and ESRD Network Pro-grams at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Previously, she led 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, and currently serves as a subject matter expert in this area.

Traci received her B.S. in Occupational Therapy from Boston University’s Sargent College of Allied Health Professions in 1997, and her M.B.A. from the University of Baltimore in 2002. She has 18 years of clinical experience working as an Occupational Therapist in a variety of practice settings. Traci also served as the Clinical Specialist for Quality and Accreditation for a rehabilitation department in Baltimore.

Traci is originally from Cleveland, OH, but has lived in Baltimore since 1997 with her husband, Eric, and son, Kiya.

Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, FACP, Chief Scientific Officer of The National Quality Forum

Helen Burstin is the Chief Scientific Officer of The National Quality Forum, a not-for-profit membership organization that works to catalyze healthcare improvement through quality measurement and reporting. Dr. Burstin is responsible for advancing the science of quality measurement and improvement. She provides scientific oversight for the evaluation, endorsement and selection of quality measures and the transition to electronic performance measurement.

Prior to joining NQF in 2007, Dr. Burstin was the Director of the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). In her role, she oversaw the development of an extensive research portfolio at the intersection of health information technology and quality of care. Her center also supported the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and research on primary care and prevention. She led the
development of the first National Healthcare Disparities Report. Prior to joining AHRQ in 2000, Dr. Burstin was an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and the Director of Quality Measurement at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In her role, she developed a hospital-wide electronic Quality Measurement Reporting System. She also served as the Chair of the Medical Staff Executive Committee on Quality Assurance and Risk Management.

Dr. Burstin is a graduate of the State University of New York at Upstate College of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Burstin completed a residency in primary care internal medicine at Boston City Hospital. After residency, she completed fellowship training in General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Burstin is the author of more than 80 articles and book chapters on quality, patient safety, and disparities. She is the Chair of the Quality Measures Workgroup of the federal HHS Health IT Policy Committee. She is a Senior Professorial Lecturer in the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University School of Public Health. Dr. Burstin is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at George Washington University where she serves as a preceptor in internal medicine. She was recently awarded the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Voluntary Attending Award from the George Washington School of Medicine.

Jackie Buttaccio, BSHSM, CPHQ, Quality Improvement Director, HealthInsight

Jackie Buttaccio is the quality improvement director of HealthInsight Nevada. Her primary responsibilities include the management of daily operations of all projects and contracts under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and other contracts supported by Nevada operations. She ensures quality improvement projects are developed and implemented with distinction, meeting all contract requirements, while fulfilling and supporting the vision of HealthInsight. Ms. Buttaccio has received training, and is skilled in several advanced quality improvement methods, including TeamSTEPPS (Master Trainer), culture change and root cause analysis. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) and has 13 years of experience in applying quality improvement tools and techniques to improve care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Pam Clayton, Vice President of Quality Advancement & Regulatory Affairs

As a long-standing member of GHCA, Pam has been actively involved in the Quality Committee as well as serving on the Board of Directors. Her long history of advocacy for our profession has been apparent through her involvement in improving the quality of care for our most precious residents. She is a registered nurse and is board certified in gerontological nursing. She earned a bachelor’s degree in organizational management from Covenant College and has over 20 years of diverse clinical and operational experience in post-acute care.

Donna Daniel, PhD, Director, Improving Health Outcomes Strategies, American Medical Association
Dr. Daniel is the AMA’s Director of Improving Health Outcomes (IHO) Strategies. In this capacity, she heads efforts to develop, implement, and lead clinical practice-based change strategies for improving intermediate and long-term health outcomes in the IHO’s chosen focus areas (type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease), run large scale quality improvement collaboratives, and develop tools and resources to support quality-improvement efforts by frontline clinicians. Formerly, Dr. Daniel served as the Director of Practice Transformation and Measurement for the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative and also as a faculty member for the American Academy of Family Physicians’ performance enhancement program. She received a Bachelor of Science degree, magna cum laude, in mathematics and statistics from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and her doctorate in biometry and epidemiology from Medical University of South Carolina.

Louis H. Diamond, MBChB, President, Quality in Health Care Advisory Group

Louis H. Diamond, MBChB, FCP (SA), FACP, FHIMSS, is the President of Quality in Health Care Advisory Group, LLC (QHC). He is an expert in the use of methodologies for measuring and improving quality and also involved in the development of public policy through projects focused on patient safety, health system financing, physician payment reform, quality measurement and reporting, and performance improvement.

He currently serves as the following: Chair, Physician Engagement Committee, Health Information Management Systems Society; Member, Leadership Network, National Quality Forum (NQF); Member, Measurement Application Partnership Post-Acute Workgroup, NQF; Vice Chair Board, End-Stage Renal Disease Network, (A QIO for the ESRD program); Delegate for the Renal Physicians Association to the American Medical Association House of Delegates; Member, National Priorities Partnership, representing the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society; Ex officio member, Board of Trustees, American College of Medical Quality; and Board Member, Quality Insights Holdings.

He previously held leadership positions at a variety of healthcare organizations including: Chair, Strategic Directions Subcommittee, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement; Chair, Policy Steering Committee, eHealth Initiative (eHI); Chair, Quality Safety and Outcomes Committee, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS); Chair, Quality Measurement and Research Council, NQF; President and Medical Director, Renal Physicians Association; member, Board of Directors, and Director of Programs, National Patient Safety Foundation; President, Medical Society of D.C.; Board of Trustees, American Society of Internal Medicine; President, American College of Medical Quality; Member, Joint Steering and Technical Advisory Committee, National Quality Forum; Member, Editorial Board, American Journal of Medical Quality; Member, Health and Public Policy Committee, American College of Physicians American Society of Internal Medicine; Chair, eHealth and Medical Informatics Forum, American College of Medical; Chair, Applications and Learning Program, National Patient Safety Foundation; President, Forum of ESRD Network Organizations; President, ESRD Network 5 Board of Directors; President, Internal Medicine Center to Advance Research and Education (IMCARE); Member, National Kidney & Urologic Diseases Advisory Board of the National Institutes of Health.
Dr. Diamond served as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow; Vice President and Medical Director, Thomson Reuters Healthcare; Professor of Medicine, Chair, Georgetown Department of Medicine and Dean for Medical Affairs, at D. C. General Hospital; Research Fellow, Renal Metabolic Unit and Assistant professor of Medicine, Cape Town School of Medicine and Groote Schuur Hospital.

Dr. Diamond is a graduate of the University of Cape Town Medical School, South Africa; Fellow, American College of Physicians; and Fellow, College of Physicians, South Africa and Fellow American College of Physicians.

Steven Donnelly, PhD, Senior Healthcare Analyst, HealthInsight

Steven Donnelly is a Healthcare Analyst with more than seventeen years of experience at HealthInsight. He has been involved in many quality improvement and research projects and has been actively involved in QIO work since the 6th SOW.

Pat Fitzgerald, CPA, Baker Tilly

Pat Fitzgerald is a Director at Baker Tilly and was the former director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) where he spent five years overseeing the agency’s $600 million budget and 5,000 professionals who provide contract audit and advisory services to Department of Defense (DoD) and other government agencies. He also served as The Auditor General, U.S. Army. In that capacity, he was responsible for managing the worldwide operation of the U.S. Army Audit Agency (USAAA).

Beth Greene, MSW, Performance Improvement Advisor

Beth Greene received her master’s degree from the University of Tuscaloosa with a concentration in geriatrics and healthcare administration and is a licensed social worker with the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners. Beth has worked for 25 years in long term care in the areas of performance improvement, regulatory compliance, strategic planning, business development and social services in both the corporate sector and smaller independent consulting firms. She joined AQAF in 2009 to coordinate and implement clinical and quality improvement activities to reduce the rate of pressure ulcers and physical restraints in nursing homes; and currently works to reduce Healthcare Acquired Conditions in Alabama nursing homes. Beth currently serves as a board member with the Alabama Coalition for Culture Change (ACCC), a state-wide coalition committed to transforming the culture of aging and promoting person-centered care across all settings that serve elders.

Beth Hercher, CPHQ; Quality Improvement Specialist, QSource
Beth Hercher has worked for more than 10 years with TN nursing home providers to foster improvement in various clinical initiatives and topics under contract with CMS. She proudly holds her certification as a CPHQ, Master TeamSTEPPS trainer and certified Eden Associate. Early in her career, Beth had the opportunity to participate in the CMS Restraint Collaborative Pilot which modeled the IHI Breakthrough Series methodology at a national level to reduce restraint use in the long-term care setting. Nationally, this laid the foundation for a paradigm shift for nursing homes to move from a reactive approach to a more proactive approach within their QA programs. This experience and capability led to her spearheading the effort to establish the 11 SoW atom Alliance Leading and Sustaining Systemic Change Collaborative (LSSCC) that allows for alignment of resources and opportunities to improve efficiencies across our Alliance for the C2 Nursing Home Task area.

Cathy M. Hudgins Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, Director, NC Center of Excellence for Integrated Care

Dr. Cathy Hudgins is the Director of the Center of Excellence for Integrated Care under the North Carolina Foundation for Advanced Health Programs. Dr. Hudgins has experience in Integrated Care management and development, practice transformation, crisis assessment and intervention, community-based and college-based outpatient counseling, in-patient assessment and intervention, and community mental health consulting. She has also held a variety of posts in higher education administration and student affairs. Dr. Hudgins is a co-founder and prior Director of the Radford University Center for Integrated Care Training and Research. Through this post, she trained and developed integrated systems and participated in research and grant writing initiatives. Her research interests and publications are related to integrated care include policy, ethics, workforce development, and evidence-based practice models. She is an active member of the Collaborative Family Health Association and presents locally and nationally on integrated care topics.

Jeneen M. Iwugo, MPA, Deputy Director, Quality Improvement & Innovation Group

Jeneen Iwugo is the Deputy Director of the Quality Improvement & Innovation Group (QIIG) in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). With a formal education in Speech Communication and Public Policy, she has concentrated her QIO work in the Beneficiary and Family Centered Care (BFCC) tasks of the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) program. Since joining QIIG in 2008, she has served as a subject matter expert, GTL, QIO confidentiality regulation lead, Special Assistant and Division Director. Jeneen lead the revision of the QIO regulations to expand eligibility for QIO contracts beyond the previous state based structure. She also led the transition of the 10th SOW QIO case review task into the now separate BFCC task in the QIO 11th SOW. Prior her various roles within CCSQ, Jeneen worked in CMCS on Medicaid managed care policy, state plan amendments, demonstrations and waivers. Jeneen has also served as Adjunct Faculty for the Community College of Baltimore County teaching Speech Communication.

Linda Kluge, IDIQ Director at Alliant Quality
Linda Kluge is the IDIQ Director at Alliant Quality, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization for Georgia and North Carolina. Alliant Quality is a subsidiary of Alliant Health Solutions, a nonprofit family of companies helping governmental agencies ensure that tax dollars are used appropriately in the administration of public sector health care programs. Kluge has more than 38 years of experience in supervisory, management and clinical roles for health care providers in the areas of dietetics and quality management. She joined Alliant Quality (GMCF) in 2003, serving as a quality improvement and education specialist and then a home health/nursing home/quality team manager prior to advancing to director of the QIO and serving as a member of the executive management team. She has extensive experience working with Georgia nursing homes, hospitals, and home health agencies on several initiatives for patient safety, care transitions and beneficiary protection. Prior to Alliant, Kluge worked as a dietary consultant for the Atlanta based consulting firm Judy Ford Stokes & Associates and held several positions at Beverly Enterprises, a long-term care, skill nursing and rehabilitation provider, including serving as a senior director of its Quality Management department. A graduate of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland with a bachelor of science degree, Kluge completed the coordinated undergraduate program in dietetics at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. In 2010, she received the Distinguished Service Award from Aging Services of Georgia. Previously, she was the recipient of the President’s Mentor Award from the Florida Dietetic Association. In addition to being an active volunteer for Open Hand in Atlanta, Kluge is a member of Lincoln LOGS Toastmasters and facilitates a small group at the Dunwoody Community Bible Study.

Kate LaFollette, RN, Senior Quality Improvement Facilitator, Telligen

Kate received her diploma from Iowa Methodist School of Nursing. During her 23 years as a nurse, she has worked in skilled care, adult med/surg, clinic setting and as a director of quality. In her three years with the QIO, her work has been primarily community organizing, community coalitions and improving care transitions. She is a Master Trainer for TeamSTEPPS and has been a Crucial Conversations Coach.

Noah Leiden, CPA, Baker Tilly

Noah Leiden is a Partner at Baker Tilly and has over 22 years of experience in government contract accounting, pricing, business system and internal control oversight, and regulatory and federal contract compliance assisting defense, manufacturing, engineering, information and communications, higher education, and non-profit clients. His experience includes, cost allowability, application of Federal Acquisition Regulation and OMB Circular requirements, internal control reviews, accounting and business systems assessments, cost estimating and proposal development, accounting and auditing of federal contracts, application and interpretation of Cost Accounting Standards, and supporting federal audits. Prior to joining Baker Tilly, Noah worked with the Defense Contract Audit Agency, a major international public accounting firm, and major consulting firms.

Sheryl Marshall, Telligen
Sheryl received her nursing degree from the University of South Dakota. During her nursing career she has worked in the hospital, hospice, home care, nursing home and clinic settings. She has been with Telligen for twelve years. For the past six years she has worked in Telligen’s QIO, primarily focusing on nursing homes assisting in their quality improvement efforts. She is a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Master Trainer for TeamSTEPPS.

Paul E. McGann, MD, Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement

In 2002, Dr. McGann joined the full-time staff of CMS, initially in the Quality Improvement Group in the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality (now the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality). His first projects at CMS were to lead the introduction of quality improvement Organization contracts, beginning with their 8th contract cycle. The results of this work were published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in September 2006.

In July 2007 he was promoted to Deputy Chief Medical Officer for CMS. His responsibilities in that position included leading the re-design and clearance team for the QIO 9th Statement of Work. The procurement of this $1.1B contract was completed successfully in August 2008, and represented the start of CMS work to improve care transitions and reduce hospital re-admission rates for Medicare beneficiaries. He also contributed to the development of the QIO 10th Statement of Work, which was awarded in August 2011. He has also contributed to the ongoing re-design of the ESRD Network Program, identification and reduction of health care disparities, and introduction of the principles of geriatric medicine into numerous CMS programs including measure development, survey and certification, coverage, and value-based purchasing. From February to May, 2011, Dr. McGann served as the Acting Chief Medical Officer for CMS, reporting to the CMS Administrator. In August 2011, at the request of the Administrator, Dr. McGann relocated to the CMS Innovation Center to become Co-Director of the Partnership for Patients, together with Dennis Wagner.

Dr. McGann received a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemistry and a Master’s in Biology from MIT. 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 for 14 years. He is board-certified in both internal medicine and geriatric medicine in both the United States and in Canada. He returned to the U.S. in 1995 to become the founding Clinical Director of the J. Paul Sticht Center on Aging of Wake Forest University in North Carolina. He was named the first AGS-HCFA Health Policy Scholar in 1999. He relocated to Baltimore to join the full-time staff of CMS in 2002. Dr. McGann was the recipient of the 2014 Nascher-Manning Award of the American Geriatrics Society, and in 2014 also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from CMS.

The Partnership for Patients is an unprecedented public-private program of work which commits to achieving two bold, national aims in health care quality improvement: a 40% reduction in preventable all-cause patient harm in US hospitals, and a 20% reduction in all-payer 30-day readmission rates. The Partnership for Patients signed up 3,700 of the nation’s hospitals, and more than 8,000 general partners in its effort dramatically to improve patient safety in the nation’s hospitals, across all public and private payors. It involves all Operating Divisions within the Department of Health and Human Services, including CMS, ACL (formerly AoA), AHRQ, CDC, HRSA, ONC, OASH, and many others. The two
operational components of the Partnership for Patients are ACA Section 3026 Community Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP), and the “Hospital Engagement Networks”, a program of competitive federal contracts which was awarded to 26 leading hospital organizations on December 9th, 2011. (For more information see:
http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Partnership-for-Patients/; and
http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Transforming-Clinical-Practices/)

Adrienne Mims, MD, MPH, Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, Alliant Quality

Dr. Mims is board certified in family medicine and geriatric medicine physician, with fellowship status in both specialties. She has more than 30 years of clinical practice experience in caring for Medicare beneficiaries including hospital, office, nursing home, hospice and home care. She has a unique insight to the needs of the patient and family members and that of the clinical care team. As a clinical epidemiologist, she has with more than 20 years of administrative experience in using quality performance metrics to guide changes in clinical processes, clinician and patient education and organizational delivery system redesign in small clinical practices, large disease management, Medicare Advantage and managed care organizations.

Designed and implemented a practice based, clinical measure driven, process improvement program for primary care physician practices resulting in improved cardiac disease and diabetes care outcomes as tracked by PQRS measures used for Maintenance of Certification.

Met contracted clinical targets for 250,000 frail dual eligible Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries through clinical supervision of nurses, case managers and social workers in a disease management program.

20 years of creating patient education materials supporting clinical practice guidelines with a focus on health literacy and cultural sensitivity.

Jean Moody-Williams, RN, MPP, Deputy Director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

Jean D. Moody-Williams, RN, MPP, is the Deputy Director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality. Jean is a member of the leadership team responsible for one of CMS’ Centers that has more than 400 employees and a $3 billion annual budget. She is 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 provide 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.

Prior to joining CMS, Ms. Moody-Williams served as an executive at a number of state and private entities working to improve care for patients and families including, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), the National Resource Center for Health Policy and Strategies, Quality Improvement Organizations and a health care system in Dallas. She is also a clinician.

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.

Juliana Preston, MPA, Executive Director, HealthInsight Utah

Juliana Preston, MPA is the Utah Executive Director at HealthInsight. Ms. Preston's responsibilities include all Utah governance, operations, staffing, customer and community relations, and development. Ms. Preston graduated from Oregon State University in 1998 with a Bachelor's of Science degree with an emphasis in Long Term Care and minor in Business Administration. In 2003, she obtained her Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah with an emphasis in Health Policy.

Galina Priloutskaya, Corporate Director of Analytic Services, HealthInsight

Galina Priloutskaya has more than 20 years of sustained experience using standardized statistical methods to perform high-level analyses linking outcomes to improved health, health care and lower costs, and calculating quality measures. She has worked in QIO since 7SoW. She has extensive proficiency in managing projects. She is experienced in developing and refining model/demonstration design and operations, designing and carrying out surveys and other data collection activities.

Michael Rakotz, MD, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention, American Medical Association

Dr. Rakotz has been a practicing family physician for 18 years. He was formerly a Vice Chair for Quality at NorthShore University HealthSystem, where his efforts to use health information technology to identify patients at risk for undiagnosed hypertension led to NorthShore receiving the 2013 Healthcare Informatics IT Innovator Award and published in Annals of Family Medicine. He more recently served as Director of Population Health and Virtual Medicine at Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group in Evanston, Illinois, and is an ONC Health IT Vanguard Fellow[healthit.gov]. In 2014, Dr. Rakotz' office was recognized as one of 30 sites in the United States to win the designation of Million Hearts Hypertension Control Champion. At
the American Medical Association, Dr. Rakotz serves as the Director for Chronic Disease Prevention for Improving Health Outcomes, focusing his efforts on strategies to improve blood pressure control nationally.

**Dana Richardson, RN, MHA, Director of PCPI Operations and Strategic Initiatives for the PCPI**

Dana Richardson is the Director of PCPI Operations and Strategic Initiatives for the PCPI. In this capacity, she oversees several functions within the PCPI including strategic planning, governance activities, membership, education and external communication. In addition, Ms. Richardson is leading the PCPI’s contributions to the National Quality Registry Network, a multi-stakeholder initiative to advance the value of clinical registries, and the PCPI Quality Improvement Program.

Prior to joining the AMA, Ms. Richardson was the Vice President of Quality Initiatives for the Wisconsin Hospital Association. In this capacity, she was responsible for implementing WHA Board directives aimed at improving the quality and safety of care provided within Wisconsin hospitals including the development of CheckPointSM, a voluntary public reporting program of hospital quality. She also worked for Dean Health System in Madison, WI, a large multispecialty group practice, where she developed a physician led quality improvement program called The Value of Care Initiative.

Her past experience includes 15 years of hospital staff nursing with a focus on critical care.

Richardson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and a Master of Arts degree in business with a major in health service administration from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

**Kim Salamone, PhD, Vice President, Health Information Technology, Health Services Advisory Group**

Dr. Kimberly Harris-Salamone, PhD, MPA serves as vice president of health information technology (HIT) and has more than twenty years of experience in the healthcare industry, with expertise in Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and quality improvement (QI) through technology. In her current role with HSAG, Dr. Harris-Salamone has oversight responsibility for all physician office QI activities under HSAG’s CMS Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) contract. She provided expertise and oversight in the area of HIT for HSAG’s subcontracts with Arizona’s and 2 of California’s Regional Extension Centers. Throughout the design, implementation, and evaluation of these contracts and more, she has a proven history of simultaneously managing complex projects with multiple stakeholders that have diverse needs and resources. She has applied her skill and experience in critical-thinking and employing innovative solutions to balancing the needs of a contract while also meeting the needs of the practices and multiple partners and stakeholders.

**Emily Sim, Manager of Analytic Services, Nevada**
Emily Sim has 15 years of experience working with QIO data and has designed dashboards and reports for different settings. She is currently working as a lead multi-state analyst for The Care Transitions Aim.

**Lemeneh Tefera, MD, Medical Officer, Center for Clinical Standards & Quality**

Dr. Lemeneh Tefera, who goes by “Tef,” most recently served as the Health Policy Fellow for Senator Jeanne Shaheen who sits on the Appropriations Subcommittee covering Health and Human Services. His role was as a clinical expert and advisor helping to brief the Senator on a wide range of health policy issues. He also led the Senator’s advocacy for new policy levers to curtail the national prescription opioid abuse epidemic.

Dr. Tefera received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Southern California School of Medicine and then completed an emergency medicine residency at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. He continued in academic medicine where he held faculty appointments at Mount Sinai, Montefiore Hospital, and Beth Israel- all in New York City. In addition to his urban ER clinical experience, he worked as a visiting doctor in Australia, England, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, and volunteered with *Doctors Without Borders* in Haiti. His work abroad developed into an interest in comparative health delivery systems that inspired him to return to graduate school. At the London School of Economics and Political Science, Dr. Tefera studied both health and behavioral economics with a keen interest in how monetary and non-monetary incentives impact provider behavior. Upon completion, Dr. Tefera moved to Washington DC to pursue a career in health policy. In addition to his new role in VIQR, Dr. Tefera still practices in the ER and is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the George Washington University.

**Mark Tobias, President, Pantheon**

Mark Tobias is President of Pantheon (panth.com), a technology consultancy in Arlington, VA. With more than 15 years of experience, Mark has led the development of innovative technology solutions for the nation’s top health care policy organizations, including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Aligning Forces for Quality, the National Quality Forum, the American Pharmacists Association, Minnesota Community Measurement, and URAC. Making health data actionable for key decision makers and users is central to Mark’s leadership and Pantheon’s approach. Recent projects include technology solutions for performance measurement, public reporting, policy maker networks, and accreditation.

**Angela M Vanker, MPH, Director, Quality Initiatives, MPRO**

Ms. Vanker is currently a Director of Quality Initiatives, which includes overseeing the CMS 11 SOW and the Immunizations and Behavioral Health task orders. Prior to the 11 SOW, Ms.Vanker was Director of the Ambulatory Quality Improvement program which oversaw the CMS10SOW IHPC program, DACH SIP, and a region of the Michigan REC program. Ms. Vanker has over 9 years’ experience in healthcare informatics and quality improvement and over 11 years’ experience in public health management and policy. She has participated in a
variety of CMS-, ONC- and MPRO-initiated quality improvement (QI) projects, including the Prevention Program, the DOQ-IT program, and the Southeastern Michigan Beacon program.

**Dennis Wagner, MPA, Director, Quality Improvement & Innovation Group**

Dennis Wagner is a national and international leader in the fields of healthcare quality improvement, the environment and social marketing. He is an enthusiastic, thoughtful and strategic person who believes in committing to and delivering on bold aims in work and life. Dennis currently works in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as Co-Director of the Partnership for Patients Initiative, as Co-Director of the new Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, as Director of the Quality Improvement Innovation Models Testing Group, and as Acting Director of the Quality Improvement Group in the CMS Center for Clinical Standards & Quality.

Prior to his current CMS postings, Dennis served as the Associate Deputy Director and then Acting Director of the CMS Office of Clinical Standards and Quality (OCSQ). Dennis worked for 12 years at the Health Resources and Services Administration, 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.