All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

The **MISSION** of the Forum is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks in promoting methods to improve the quality of care to patients with renal disease.

**CORE VALUES:**
- Volunteerism
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Spread of Knowledge
- Integrity
- Autonomy of Individual ESRD Networks
- Person (Patient & Family) Centeredness
Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17
Strategic Planning Priorities and Updates

• Strategic Partnerships
  • Continued collaboration with CMS, NKF, RPA, and other stakeholders
  • Continued development of new toolkits and updates to existing toolkits

• Board Development
  • Began development of member questionnaire to gauge areas of interest/expertise

• Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement
  • Implemented social media plan for 2023
  • Grew social media audience
  • Posted Forum Matters to the Forum website

• Resource Identification
  • Continued work on fundraising plan to diversify revenue sources
  • Established the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund to fund KPAC activities
• Assisting the Networks
• Council Activities: MAC, EDAC KPAC
• Regular Communication with CMS
• Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
• Relationships with other Stakeholders (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, CDC, ASN)
Forum Presidents

Elbert P. Tuttle, Jr.  
(1976-1978)
Robert J. Soberman  
(1978-1980)
Frederick Westervelt  
(1980-1982)
Dominick E. Gentile, MD  
(1982-1984)
William W. Pfaff, MD  
(1984-1986)
Sidney Baskin  
(1986-1989)
John L. Bengfort, MD  
(1989-1992)
John D. Bower, MD  
Louis H. Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP  
(1994-1998)
Jay B. Wish, MD  
(1998-2001)
Alan S. Kliger, MD  
(2001-2004)

Derrick L. Latos, MD, MACP  
(2004-2006)
Richard S. Goldman, MD  
(2006-2009)
Cynthia Kristensen, MD  
(2009-2011)
Klemens Meyer, MD  
(2011-2012)
Andrew D. Howard, MD, FACP  
(2012-2015)
John Wagner, MD, MBA  
Donald Molony, MD  
(2017-2019)
Ralph Atkinson III, MD  
(2019-2021)
David Henner, DO  
(2021 - 2023)
Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD  
(2023-Present)
Executive Committee:
President: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
President-Elect: Dan Landry, DO, FASN
Past President: David Henner, DO
Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA
Secretary: Chris Brown
MAC Chair: Dan Landry, DO, FASN
MAC Vice-Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN
EDAC Chair: Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
EDAC Vice-Chair: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards
Interim KPAC Co-Chair: Mary Baliker

Members-at-Large:
Christine Logar, MD, FASN
Kelly M. Mayo, MS
Keith Norris, MD PhD
Stephen Pastan, MD
Maria Regnier, MSN, RN, CNN
Dee LeDuc
Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Ad Hoc:
Andrew Howard, MD, FACP
Donald Molony, MD
John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:
Louis Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP, FCP (SA)
Executive Directors Advisory Council (July 2023)

Chair: Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Vice-Chair: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Networks 1/2 Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ
Networks 3/4 Chris Brown
Network 5 Brandy Vinson
Network 6 Danielle Daley, MBA
Networks 7/13/15/17/18 Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW
Networks 8/14 Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Network 9 Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Network 10 Audrey Broaddus
Network 11 Dee LeDuc
Network 12 Stephanie Smith
Network 16 Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA
Chair: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN
Vice Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN
Immediate Past Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPA, PhD

Network 1: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN
Network 2: George Coritsidis, MD
Network 3: Keith Norris, MD, PhD
Network 4: Paul Palevsky, MD
Network 5: Marc Brazie, MD
Network 6: John J. Doran, MD, FASN
Network 7: Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF
Network 8: Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN
Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS
Network 10: Daniel Roseman, MD
Network 11: Louis Raymond, MD
Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Network 13: Laura Rankin, MD
Network 14: Donald Molony, MD
Network 15: Harmeet Singh, MD
Network 16: Christine Logar, MD
Network 17: Ramin Sam, MD
Network 18: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
Ad Hoc Member: Stephen Pastan, MD
EDAC Rep: Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ (1/2)
QID Rep: Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN, BSN, CNN (16)
KPAC Rep: Dawn Edwards (2)
Network 1: Laurie Pease
Sherrie Shively
Network 2: Stephanie Dixon
Dawn Edwards (Co-Chair)
Network 3: Bill Senior
Anthony Abbate
Network 4: Timmy Nelson
Network 5: Virna Elly
Patrick Gee
Network 6: Jamall Wimberly
Eric Dolby
Network 7: Janice Starling
Network 8: VACANT
Network 9: Evan Coaker
Laura Wilcox
Network 10: VACANT
Network 11: Jeff Nelson
Mary Baliker (Interim Co-Chair)
Network 12: Shane Blanchard
Anita Kucera
Network 13: Yazzi Bishop
Network 14: Precious McCowan
Abby Ruiz
Network 15: VACANT
Network 16: Bob Crabtree
Lisa Custer
Network 17: Doris Lew
Network 18: Wendy Skinner
EDAC Rep: Dee LeDuc (NW 11)
PSD Reps: Yessi Cubillo (NW 3)
Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16)
Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings

Forum Executive Committee:
- Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:
- Quarterly conference calls
- 2023 Meetings: March 7 & 10 (virtual); September 22-23, 2023 (Denver, CO)

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls
- Monthly conference calls
- In-person meetings at CMS Quality Conference (2020, no in-person meeting in 2021, 2022, or 2023)

CMS/Network/Forum COVID-19 Calls
- Weekly calls began April 2020, transitioned to monthly in November 2020, ended May 2021, monthly calls resumed August 2021, bi-monthly calls began February 2022, monthly calls began in 2023

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)
- Quarterly conference calls
- Annual MAC Meeting: November 1, 2023 (Philadelphia, PA)

Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)
- Monthly conference calls
- Meeting with CMS & Division of Kidney Health/iQIIG Leaders
- Periodic calls with FMC, DaVita, RHA

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)
- Monthly conference calls
Highlights from December 2023 Meeting

- The Board discussed potential topics for collaborative calls with CMS in 2024.
- KPAC members Dawn Edwards and Stephanie Dixon have been working with Home Dialyzors United, the AKF, and IPRO to provide face-to-face education to patients in underserved areas. They have conducted sessions in Brooklyn, NY, and Atlanta, GA; in the spring they will conduct a session in New England. The Board discussed implementing this program across all Networks.
- EDAC Chair Vicky Cash shared information about the Network site visits with Melissa Dorsey from the CMS Division of Kidney Health. These visits have been overwhelmingly positive, with Ms. Dorsey seeking patient input on valuable measures for the next Network Statement of Work (2026).
- Dr. Landry shared information about VuMedi as a platform to promote the Forum’s work to the medical community.
- Ms. Counter provided an overview of Forum finances in 2023.
Professional Toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit
- Vaccination Toolkit
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Home Dialysis Toolkit *(update released August 2023)*
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit
- Health Equity Toolkit *(in progress)*

Patient Toolkits

- Health Equity Toolkit *(in progress)*
- Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
- Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
- Financial Help Resources
- Kidney Patient Transplant Toolkit
  - *Patient video providing an overview of the toolkit available at [https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Is_A_Kidney_Transplant_Right_For_Me.mp4](https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Is_A_Kidney_Transplant_Right_For_Me.mp4); consider sharing with your patients!*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toolkit</th>
<th>What’s New</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Dialysis Toolkit</td>
<td>• New sections to address AAKH and Conditions for Coverage updates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Emergency management of home dialysis patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Impact of ESCOs, ETC model, voluntary models on home therapies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Emerging technology and impact and benefits to home therapies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Addressing disparities and access to care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Home therapy options in the LTC/nursing home settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• KPAC section: empowering patients and care partners to be successful at home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Equity Toolkit</td>
<td>• Forms of healthcare inequity</td>
</tr>
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<td>• Challenges faced by immigrants with ESKF in the US</td>
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<td>• Promoting patient engagement and health literacy</td>
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<td>• Causes and consequences of involuntary discharge</td>
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<td>• Creating a safe environment for patient-provider collaboration</td>
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<td>• Implementing and practicing health equity</td>
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<td>• Making the best use of resources and SHEP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- Anita Monteiro, Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- Shane Illies, Deputy Director, iQIIG
- Vacant, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement
- Shalon Quinn, Special Advisor – Data Initiatives
- Melissa Dorsey, Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- Ann Turner, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- Mitzi Christ, Regional Program Manager, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- CORs, ARAs, Central Office staff

2023 Calls: 2/13, 4/17, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 11/13, 12/11
CMS Organizational Chart

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for
Medicare and Medicaid
Innovation

DHHS/CMS Organizational Chart:
Highlights from the 4th Quarter 2023

• The November call was devoted to memorializing Board member and KPAC co-chair Derek Forfang who passed away in October. The Forum has established the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund, contributions to which will fund KPAC activities. A recording of the memorial service is available at https://esrdnetworks.org/in-honor-of-derek-forfang/.

• In December, Dr. Jenny Shen presented on undocumented immigrants and kidney transplantation.

• Dr. Howard continued to share transplant metrics, including new data on high KDPI kidneys showing benefits for pre-emptive transplants.

• Mr. Brown continued to share COVID updates, noting data lags making it difficult to track the current vaccination status of patients.

• CMS/Forum leadership calls moved from every other month to monthly to allow for more frequent interaction.
What Else Has the Forum Been Doing?

• THREE new Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) initiatives have been approved and posted to the Forum website at https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-highly-effective-practices-in-the-kidney-community/approved-highly-effective-practices/. More highly effective practices are forthcoming.

• The Forum’s KPAC welcomed NINE new members to the Council!
Forum Members in the Community

- S. Dixon. Received AKF grant to host support group/holiday party for patients and families at SUNY University Hospital at Downstate. Brooklyn, NY. (December 2023)
- J. Nelson. Met with Wisconsin state representatives to request support for the LDPA legislation.
- M. Baliker. Workgroup: Determining Risks Inherent to Transplantation. American Society of Nephrology. (December 2023)
- M. Baliker, A Abbate. University of Michigan Patient Life Goals Focus Group. (December 2023)
- P. Gee. Submission: Patient Perspective on In-Person Visits. *Kidney 360*. (December 2023)
- P. Gee. Implementation: Breaking Barriers to Reaching the Bedside: Recruiting Patients as Champions in Their Care: Identifying Barriers and Promoting Self-Advocacy. ASN Kidney Week. (November 2023)
- B. Crabtree. AAKP National Kidney Advocacy Day. (October 2023)

Congratulations!

KPAC leaders Dawn Edwards and Mary Baliker have been appointed to serve on the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology’s* Patient Voices Editorial Board!
On the Horizon in 2023

- Advancing American Kidney Health
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- Updates to MAC Toolkits and development of three new MAC Toolkits
- New KPAC Toolkits
- Actively pursuing additional financial resources to support Forum/Network activities
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices in the Kidney Community: consider submitting a best practice to the Forum’s new community education resource
  
The Forum is committed to supporting the activities of the ESRD Networks and improving care for all kidney patients. We have a variety of free educational materials on our website and more under development. We are a nonprofit organization and do all this through volunteer members and limited financial resources. Your donation directly supports this work. All donations are tax deductible.

Donate Here

https://esrdnetworks.org/donate
Followers:
Feb 2020 = 134
December 2023 = 358

Followers:
Feb 2020 = 95
December 2023 = 433

Followers:
March 2023 = 47
December 2023 = 125
Social Media

esrdnetworks.org

https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks

https://twitter.com/ESRDNetworks (tag us @esrdnetworks)


https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g

Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:
Kelly Brooks, Forum Coordinator
kbrooks@esrdnetworks.org
804-390-9822