Forum Matters

Highlights & Updates
First Quarter 2024

https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/forum-matters/
What is the Forum?

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
  - Met with VA to discuss possible collaboration
  - Continued development of new toolkits
- Board Development
  - Began development of member questionnaire to gauge areas of interest/expertise
- Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement
  - Implemented social media plans for 2023 and 2024
  - Rolled out Kidney Month campaign via social media in March 2024
  - Added an Instagram account in February 2024
- Resource Identification
  - Continued work on fundraising plan to diversify revenue sources
  - Saw impressive response to the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund with donations totaling $10,000 in 2023. Funds are restricted to 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  |
| Network 1: | Sherrie Shively |
| Network 2: | Dawn Edwards (Co-Chair) |
| Network 3: | Bill Senior  |
| Network 3: | Stephanie Dixon |
| Network 3: | Anthony Abbate |
| Network 4: | Timmy Nelson |
| Network 5: | Virna Elly  |
| Network 5: | Patrick Gee |
| Network 6: | Jamall Wimberly |
| Network 6: | Eric Dolby |
| Network 7: | Janice Starling |
| Network 8: | VACANT |
| Network 9: | Evan Coaker  |
| Network 9: | Laura Wilcox |
| Network 10: | VACANT |
| Network 11: | Jeff Nelson |
| Network 11: | Mary Baliker (Interim Co-Chair) |
| Network 12: | Shane Blanchard |
| Network 12: | Anita Kucera |
| Network 13: | Yazzi Bishop |
| Network 14: | Precious McCowan |
| Network 15: | VACANT |
| Network 16: | Bob Crabtree |
| Network 17: | Doris Lew |
| Network 18: | Wendy Skinner |
| EDAC Rep: | Dee LeDuc (NW 11) |
| PSD Reps: | Yessi Cubillo (NW 3) |
| PSD Reps: | Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16) |
Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings

Forum Executive Committee:
• Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:
• Quarterly conference calls
• 2024 Meeting: September 20-21 (Las Vegas, NV)

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls
• Monthly conference calls
• In-person meetings at CMS Quality Conference

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)
• Quarterly conference calls
• 2024 MAC Meeting: TBD

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 March 2024 Meeting

• President Dr. Kam Kalantar presented his President’s Report, including information on the Forum’s solid relationship with CMS colleagues and highlighting Forum activities, such as toolkits and publications.

• KPAC Interim Co-Chair Mary Baliker shared information about Kidney Month and the social media campaign the KPAC developed.

• EDAC Chair Vicky Cash shared updates on the Networks’ contract performance to-date, noting that Networks are performing well on the transplantation measures and the transition to home dialysis measure. She also noted challenges to some of the measures, citing data issues and apathy toward vaccination among staff and patients.

• MAC Chair Dan Landry shared that the MAC continues work on its health equity toolkit, and the MAC is considering exhibiting its toolkits via Zoom to some fellowship programs. There has been a request to collaborate on a palliative care toolkit as well. The SHEP program has another approved submission, available on the Forum’s website.

• Treasurer Stephanie Counter provided an overview of Forum finances in 2023, noting the impressive donations to the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund, which will fund KPAC activities.
Forum Toolkits [https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits]

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
• Cardiovascular Toolkit (in progress)
• 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]; consider sharing with your patients!
Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- Anita Monteiro, Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- Sara Brice-Payne, Acting 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

2024 Calls: 1/8, 2/12, 3/11
Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

DHHS/CMS Organizational Chart:
• On the January call with CMS, KPAC Co-Chair Dawn Edwards spoke about the need for staff-assisted home dialysis. She noted that by providing support at home, it would give more patients the opportunity to get home and help patients who are home stay home.

• In February, the EDAC members reflected on the Network site visits with Melissa Dorsey. Ms. Dorsey also shared her experience with the site visits. The visits were mutually beneficial, with the Networks citing greater commitment to the work following Ms. Dorsey’s visits.

• The March meeting focused on the ESRD Treatment Choices (ETC) Model with presentations from Dr. Amal Trivedi (Brown University School of Public Health) and Dr. Andy Howard (Forum Board). Both spoke about dialysis facility performance and outcomes under the model, with Dr. Trivedi focusing specifically on social risk.
• FOUR new Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) initiatives have been approved and posted to the Forum website. More highly effective practices are forthcoming.

• In February, the Forum sent a letter of support for dental services for ESRD patients to CMS.

• In March, Forum leadership met with representatives from the Veterans Administration to discuss possible collaborations.

• The Forum membership has produced publications on topics such a dialysis facility closures and vaccination (see next slide for details).
Forum Members in the Community

- K. Norris. Structural Competency Training Module (Virtual). ESRD National Coordinating Center. (January)
- In March, KPAC members provided outreach to increase awareness about Kidney Month.
  - The KPAC produced a social media campaign including flyers about kidney disease.
  - A. Kucera created awareness ribbon cards for her dialysis facility.
  - S. Shively hosted a kidney friendly food drive at a local grocery store.
On the Horizon in 2024

- Advancing American Kidney Health
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- 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.
Followers:
Feb 2020 = 134
March 2024 = 371

Followers:
Feb 2020 = 95
March 2024 = 449

Followers:
March 2023 = 47
March 2024 = 150

Followers:
March 2024 = 13

NEW!!
Social Media

esrdnetworks.org
https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks
https://twitter.com/ESRDNetworks (tag us @esrdnetworks)
https://www.instagram.com/forumofesrdnetworks/ NEW!!
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g

Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:
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