



Forum Matters

Highlights & Updates
2nd Quarter 2026

<https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/forum-matters/>

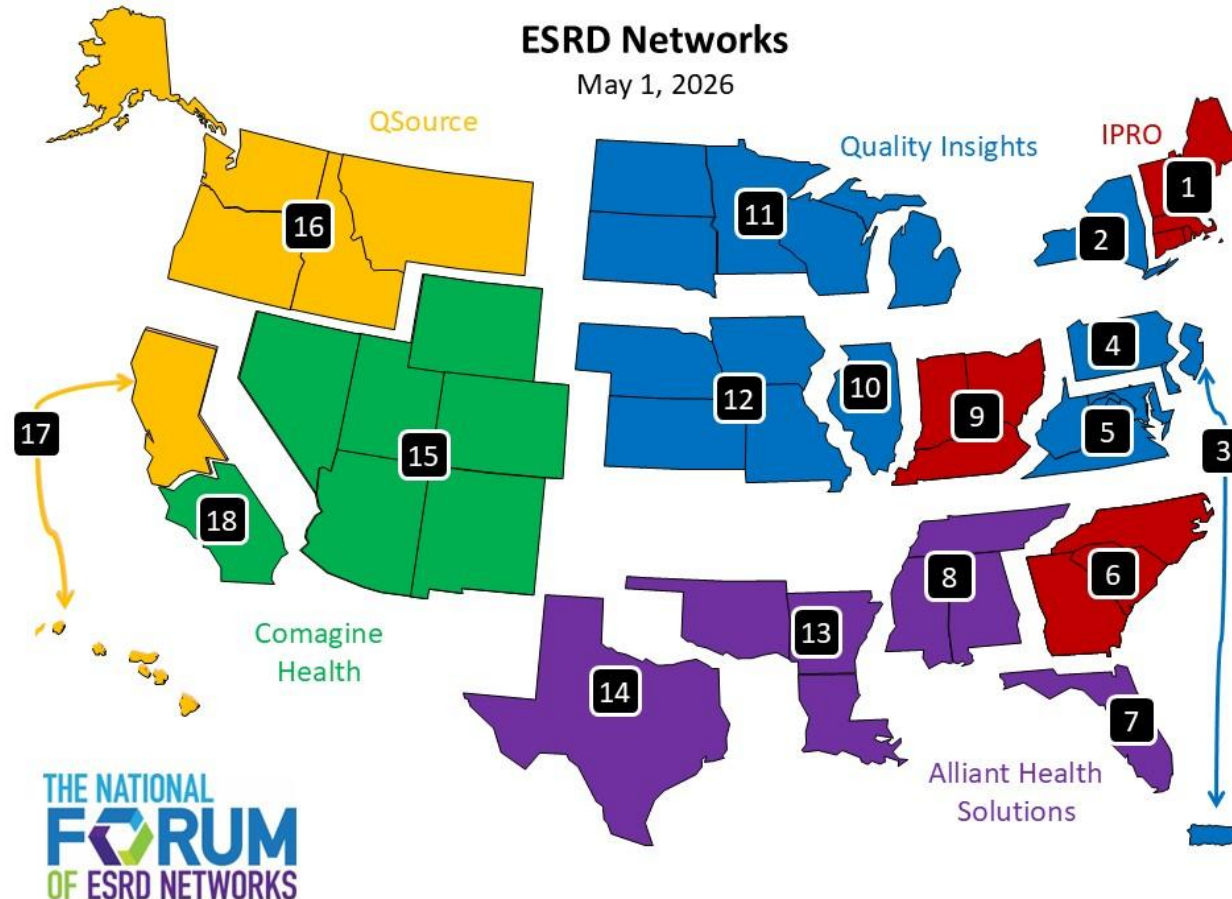
2nd Quarter Highlights



- Congratulations to the five organizations that were awarded 5-year Network contracts with CMS:
 - IPRO: Networks 1, 6, and 9
 - Quality Insights: Networks 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12
 - Alliant Health: Networks 7, 8, 13, and 14
 - Comagine Health: Networks 15 and 18
 - Qsource: Networks 16 and 17
- The Forum's Medical Advisory Council (MAC) completed the very successful [Donald Molony, MD, Dialysis Leadership Medical Director Series](#). Webinar recordings and slides are available on the Forum website.
- The Forum's Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) distributed its [quarterly newsletter](#) with articles on living kidney donation from KPAC members Jeff Nelson and Doris Lew. They also distributed a special edition in June with updates on the Network contracts.
- In April, the KPAC launched a [Donate Life Month campaign](#) to promote kidney donation.
- The MAC continued discussions with pediatric nephrology experts on a **pediatric ESRD toolkit** and will be evaluating national data regarding epidemiologic factors impacting the care of pediatric patients living with kidney failure.



ESRD Networks by Contracting Organization



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:

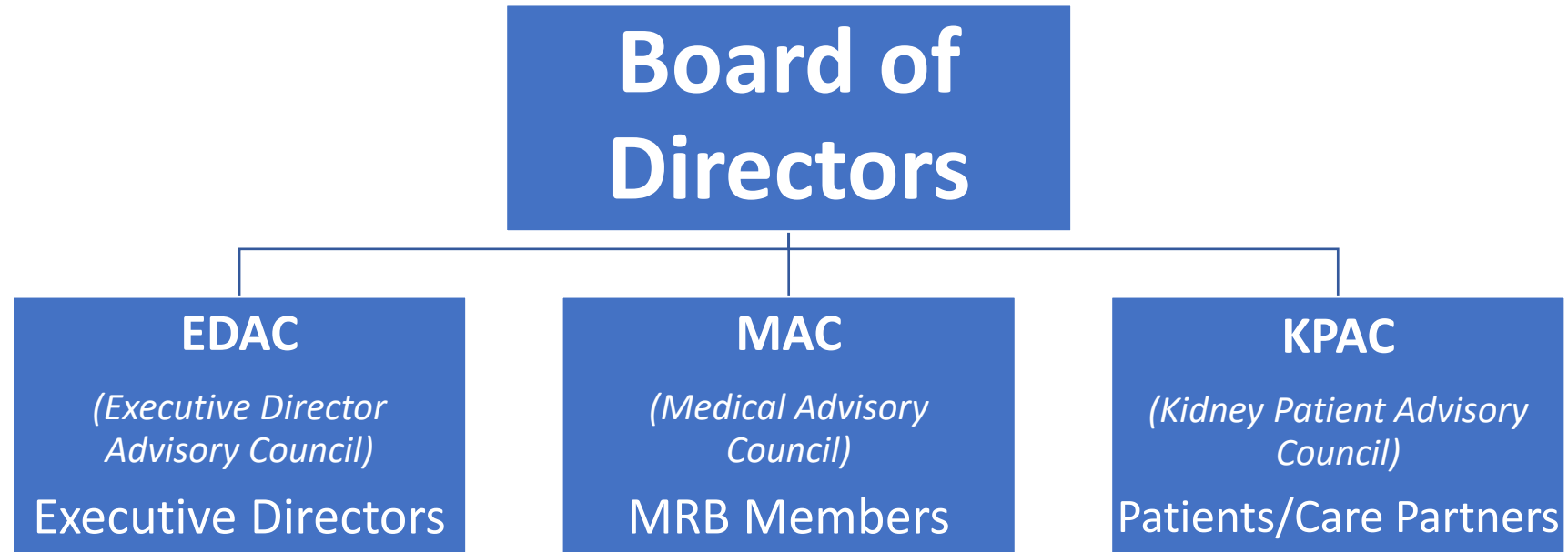
- Volunteerism
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Spread of Knowledge
- Integrity
- Autonomy of Individual ESRD Networks
- Person (Patient & Family) Centeredness

Strategic Planning Priorities and Updates



- Customer Outreach, Sharing, Publication, and Engagement
 - Completed successful Donald Molony, MD, Dialysis Leadership Medical Director Webinar Series
 - RHA 2026 Annual Conference Forum session proposal was accepted
 - Increased social media presence with additional posts and Forum volunteers sharing posts; continued to increase followers on all social media platforms
- Strategic Partnerships
 - Continued conversations on pediatric nephrology with subject matter experts
 - Collaborated with CMS to acquire national-level pediatric data
- Board Development
 - Prepared for Board elections in Summer 2026
 - Prepared new Board member orientation for those elected in 2026
- Resource Identification
 - Expanded development plans to include grants for operations and special projects

Organizational Chart



- 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., VA, RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, CDC, ASN)

Forum Presidents



Elbert P. Tuttle, Jr., MD
(1976-1978)

Robert J. Soberman, MD
(1978-1980)

Frederick Westervelt, MD
(1980-1982)

Dominick E. Gentile, MD
(1982-1984)

William W. Pfaff, MD
(1984-1986)

Sidney Baskin, MD
(1986-1989)

John L. Bengfort, MD
(1989-1992)

John D. Bower, MD
(1992-1994)

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
(2015-2017)

Donald Molony, MD
(2017- 2019)

Ralph Atkinson, III, MD
(2019- 2021)

David Henner, DO
(2021 - 2023)

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
(2023-2025)

Daniel Landry, DO, FASN
(2025-2027)

Forum Board of Directors (July 2026)

Executive Committee:

President: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

President-Elect: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Past President: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Treasurer: Stephanie Counter, MBA

Secretary: Brandy Vinson

MAC Chair: Ramin Sam, MD

MAC Vice-Chair: TBD

EDAC Chair: Audrey Broaddus, MBA-HCM

EDAC Vice Chair: Caroline Sanner, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPHQ

KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards

KPAC Co-Chair: Mary Baliker

Members-at-Large:

Marc Brazie, MD

Connie Rhee, MD, MSc

Stephen Pastan, MD

Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN

Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN

Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Ad Hoc:

Andrew Howard, MD, FACP

Donald Molony, MD

John Wagner, MD, MBA

David Henner, DO

Emeritus:

Louis Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP, FCP (SA)

Executive Directors Advisory Council

(July 2026)



Networks 1/6/9

Caroline Sanner, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPHQ (**VICE CHAIR**)

Networks 2/3/4/5/10/11/12

Brandy Vinson

Networks 7/8/13/14

Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ

Networks 15/18

Stephanie Counter, MBA, CPHQ

Network 16/17

Audrey Broaddus, MBA-HCM (**CHAIR**)

Medical Advisory Council (July 2026)

Chair: Ramin Sam, MD

Vice Chair: Election in August 2026

Immediate Past Chair: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

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: Milind Junghare, MD

Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Network 13:

Laura Rankin, MD

Network 14:

Donald Molony, MD

Network 15:

Christos Argyropoulos, MD, MS, PhD, FASN

Network 16:

VACANT

Network 17:

Ramin Sam, MD

Network 18:

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Ad Hoc Member:

Stephen Pastan, MD

EDAC Rep:

Stephanie Counter, MBA, CPHQ

QID Rep:

Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN, BSN, CNN (15/18)

KPAC Reps:

Dawn Edwards (2)

Mary Baliker (11)

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (July 2026)



Network 1: Sherrie Shively
Network 2: Dawn Edwards (Co-Chair)
Lisa Baxter
Network 3: Stephanie Dixon
Network 4: Timmy Nelson
Network 5: Johnny Jones
Patrick Gee
Network 6: Nealand Lewis
Network 7: Janice Starling
Network 8: Darrell Guyton
Network 9: Evan Coaker
Network 10: Candria Denzmore
Jimmie Bates
Dawn Bates
Network 11: Jeff Nelson
Mary Baliker (Co-Chair)

Network 12: Doug Lehman
Allen Wiebers
Network 13: **VACANT**
Network 14: Precious McCowan
Abby Ruiz
Network 15: Christina Gilchrist
Michael Gilchrist
Network 16: Glenda Roberts
Network 17: Doris Lew
Network 18: Lori Hartwell
David Rosenbloom
EDAC Rep: Audrey Broaddus (NWs 15/18)
PSD Reps: Yessi Cubillo (NWs 2/3/4/5/10/11/12)
Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NWs 16/17)

Read KPAC Member Bios at <https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/KPACBiosCombined2026.pdf>

Visit the KPAC webpage at www.forumkpac.org

Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings

Forum Executive Committee:

- Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:

- Quarterly conference calls
- 2026 in-person meeting TBD

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls

- Bi-monthly conference calls
- In-person meeting at CMS Quality Conference

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

- Quarterly conference calls
- 2026 in-person meeting TBD

Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)

- Monthly conference calls
- Meeting with CMS & Division of Kidney Health/iQIIG Leaders
- Quarterly calls with FKC, DaVita, RHA

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)

- Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors



Highlights from **June 2026** Call

- **President Dr. Daniel Landry** reviewed new Network contract specifics, including key priorities and objectives that provide focus for the Forum in supporting the Networks. Work continues on both the pediatric ESRD and healthy communities toolkits.
- **Treasurer Stephanie Counter** provided an overview of Forum financials, and the Board discussed diversifying its revenue streams to include possible grants and other outside funding.
- **KPAC Co-Chair Dawn Edwards** recognized two KPAC members who recently passed away. **KPAC Co-Chair Mary Baliker** provided an update on the transplant rejection article for CJASN. The KPAC is also revising its transplant toolkit.
- **EDAC Chair Mary Albin** reviewed some of the measures for the new contract.
- **MAC Vice Chair Dr. Ramin Sam** noted that the Donald Molony, MD, webinar series went very well, and that the MAC will work on plans for next year's series.

Forum Toolkits

Professional Toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit
- Vaccination Toolkit
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Home Dialysis Toolkit ([watch the patient videos!](#))
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit
- Healthy Communities Toolkit (in progress)
- Pediatric ESRD (in progress)

Patient Toolkits

- Cardiovascular Toolkit (in progress)
- Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
- Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
- Financial Help Resources
- Kidney Patient Transplant Toolkit ([watch the patient video!](#))



Scan for Toolkits

Forum/CMS Communications



- In May, the Forum met with CMS colleagues to discuss **optimization of guideline-directed therapies in diabetic CKD**.
- Marc Brazie, MD, presented on use of new medications (SGLT2 inhibitors and GLP1 agonists) in slowing the progression of CKD and ESRD in diabetic patients. He shared national research data as well as experience from his own practice.
- A patient shared his experience with these therapies, emphasizing the need for better health literacy to reach underserved and rural communities.

Forum Members in the Community

- Multiple Forum Members. Dialysis Facility Quality of Patient Care Star Rating Technical Expert Panel. (ongoing)
- M. Baliker. Keynote Speaker. “My Transplant Journey: A Story of Surviving and Thriving.” UNOS Transplant Management Forum. Atlanta, GA. (April)
- M. Baliker, P. Gee, P. McCowan. Presentations at National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinicals. New Orleans, LA. (May)
- M. Baliker. Panelist: Use of Question Prompts to Help Patients Ask Questions about Clinical Trials-Xenotransplant. Kidney Innovation Network. Washington, DC. (May)
- L. Baxter. Radio Spotlight: From Dialysis to Destiny: A Second Chance at Life. (June)



One Step Ahead Radio Show

Host: Dr. Marlene Mack
Sunday, June 07, 2026 / 5:30 PM EST
Only on [sosradio.live](https://www.sosradio.live)



From Dialysis to Destiny: A Second Chance at Life

With Special Guest Lisa Baxter, transplant survivor, speaker and television/radio host.

Still to Come in 2026...

- Continue to support Networks in their contract work with CMS
- Promote the tenets of the Advancing American Kidney Health Executive Order
- Explore how the Forum can support the pediatric nephrology community at a national level
- Finalize the Healthy Communities toolkit to help advance patient empowerment and outcomes
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- Develop new and revise existing MAC toolkits
- Develop new and revise existing KPAC toolkits
- Pursue additional financial resources to support Forum/Network activities
- Promote Share Highly Effective Practices in the kidney community; consider submitting a best practice to the Forum's community education resource at <https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-best-practices-in-the-kidney-community>

Consider a Contribution!



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 financial contribution directly supports this work.

All donations are tax deductible.



Social Media Followers



Feb 2020 = 134
June 2025 = 461
June 2026 = 495



Feb 2020 = 95
June 2025 = 470
June 2026 = 489



March 2023 = 47
June 2025 = 249
June 2026 = 352



March 2024 = 13
June 2025 = 26
June 2026 = 53



Social Media

**Click on the icons to visit our social media sites.
Don't forget to follow us and SHARE!**



*Questions/Comments:
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