



Forum Matters

Highlights & Updates
3rd Quarter 2026

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

3rd Quarter Highlights

- The Forum welcomed **new leadership** to its Board of Directors, Medical Advisory Council (MAC), and Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC).
- The Forum's Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) hosted its annual **summer webinar series** with sessions focused on treatment options, nutrition, and vocational rehabilitation. [Recordings and slides are available on the Forum website.](#)
- In July, the KPAC distributed its [quarterly newsletter](#) with an article by KPAC member Janice Starling on her journey with rare kidney disease.
- The Forum submitted **public comments** on CMS' [2027 ESRD Proposed Rule](#).
- Forum leaders presented on the Forum at **RHA's annual conference** in Savannah, GA, in September.
- 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.
- Forum leadership met with **CMS' Division of Kidney Health (DKH)** twice this quarter, highlighting new Forum toolkits and the advent of hemodiafiltration (HDF) in the United States.



What is the Forum?

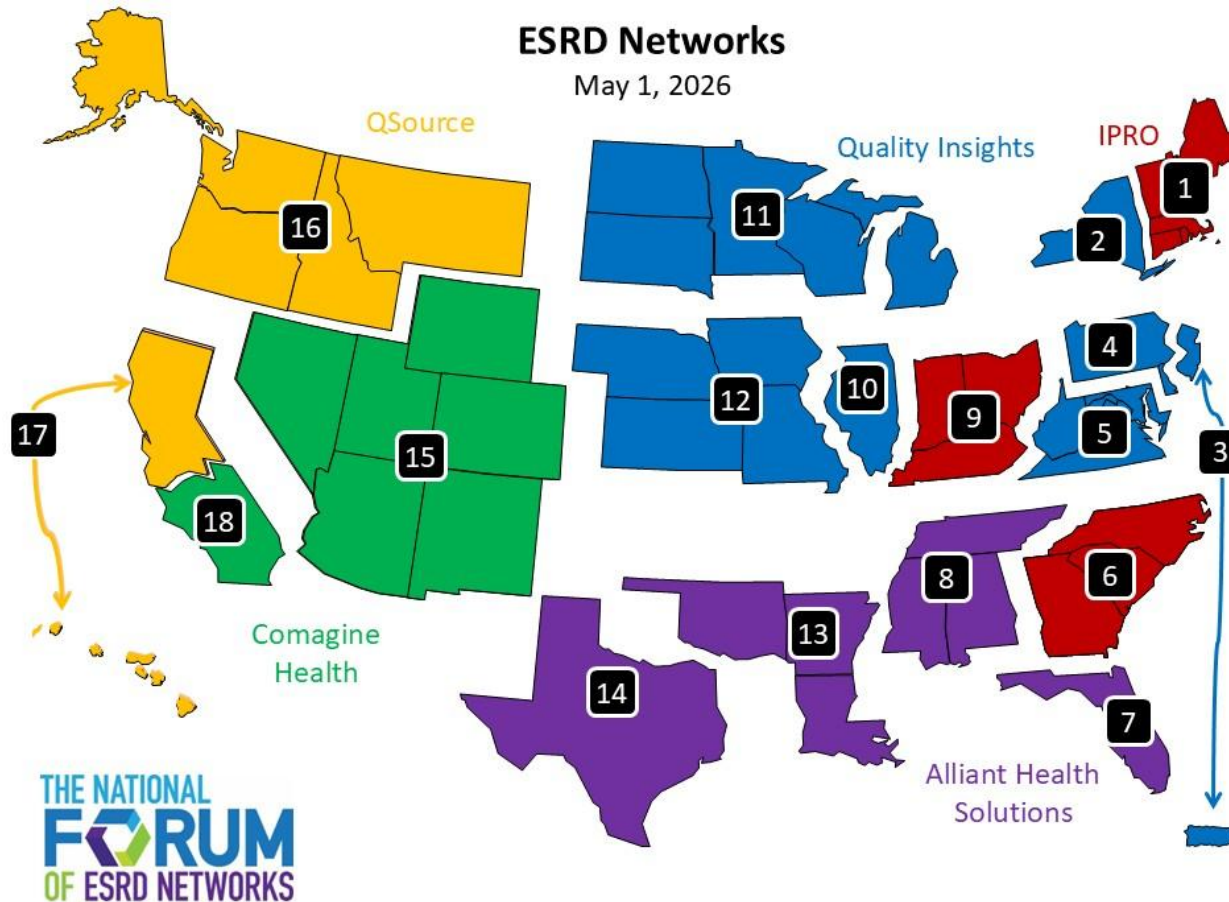
All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda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

ESRD Networks by Contracting Organization



Strategic Planning Priorities and Updates



- Customer Outreach, Sharing, Publication, and Engagement
 - Conducted a session on the Forum and ESRD Networks at the RHA 2026 Annual Conference in Savannah, GA
 - Hosted KPAC summer webinar series in support of the ESRD Networks' Statement of Work
 - Received acceptance of an article on transplant rejection in *CJASN*
 - Continued work on a patient brochure on cardio-kidney metabolic (CKM) syndrome
- Strategic Partnerships
 - Continued work on the pediatric ESRD toolkit with pediatric nephrology colleagues
 - Collaborated with CMS to acquire national-level pediatric data
- Board Development
 - Conducted Board elections
 - Oriented new Board members
- Resource Identification
 - Explored PCORI grant opportunities

Welcome New Leadership!

Board of Directors Members-at-Large



Sue Caponi,
BSN, RN, MBA, CPHQ



Paul Palevsky, MD



Alicia Neu, MD

Medical Advisory Council Vice Chair



Marc Brazie, MD

Executive Director Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair



Audrey Broaddus, MBA-HCM



Caroline Sanner,
MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPHQ

Forum Board of Directors

(September 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: Marc Brazie, MD

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:

Alicia Neu, MD

Connie Rhee, MD, MSc

Stephen Pastan, MD

Sue Caponi, BSN, RN, MBA, CPHQ

Paul Palevsky, MD

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 Director 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 (September 2026)

Chair: Ramin Sam, MD

Vice Chair: Marc Brazie, MD

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: VACANT

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 (6)

EDAC Rep: Stephanie Counter, MBA, CPHQ (15/18)

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

KPAC Reps: Dawn Edwards (2)

Mary Baliker (11)

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (September 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: 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)

In Memory of Bill Senior



KPAC member William (Bill) Senior, III, passed away on May 20, 2026. In addition to representing ESRD Network 3 on the KPAC, Bill was a valued member of the Forum's Finance Committee. Bill was a member of the Dialysis Patient Citizens group, annually advocating for ESRD patient issues on Capitol Hill. He also served as an advisor on the Dialysis Geriatric Care Model Study sponsored by Duke University. He will be greatly missed.

Derek Forfang Memorial Webinar



Jimmie & Dawn Bates



Gary Petingola, MSW, RSW



Meghan VanSlyke, RD

The Forum of ESRD Networks' Kidney Patient Advisory Council Presents
A Derek Forfang Memorial Webinar



Navigating the Holidays

A Guide for Kidney Patients



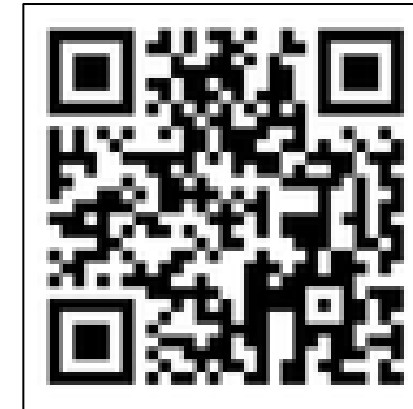
Does managing your kidney health become more challenging during the holidays? Join us for practical advice on mental health and nutrition as well as messages of hope and resilience. Hear from patient Jimmie Bates and his wife and care partner Dawn about finding joy while living with kidney disease. Learn coping strategies from social worker Gary Petingola, and gain practical advice on holiday nutrition from renal dietitian Meghan VanSlyke. You won't want to miss this engaging and FREE 90-minute session to foster gratitude, hope, and encouragement!

Oct 27, 2026 | 6 PM ET

<https://tinyurl.com/DerekForfang2026>



Join Us!
October 27, 2026
6:00 pm ET



<https://tinyurl.com/DerekForfang2026>

Forum Board of Directors

Highlights from **September 2026** Call

- **President Dr. Daniel Landry** welcomed new and returning Board members. The Board discussed a potential opportunity to apply for a PCORI grant to fund patient-centered research.
- **Treasurer Stephanie Counter** provided an overview of Forum financials. The Forum will be contracting with a new bookkeeper in October.
- **KPAC Co-Chair Mary Baliker** shared information about the summer webinar series as well as the Derek Forfang Memorial Webinar in October.
- **EDAC Chair Audrey Broaddus** shared information about the A3C framework required for this Statement of Work. A3C is a strategic approach Networks are using to assess the healthcare landscape in their regions to determine the most effective ways to improve outcomes without duplicating efforts and while minimizing provider burden. The Board also discussed a rise in AI-generated patient grievances.
- **MAC Chair Dr. Ramin Sam** shared that the pediatric ESRD toolkit has an established table of contents and work has begun on assigning chapter authors. The MAC will meet in person at ASN Kidney Week in October in Denver, CO. He welcomed Marc Brazie, MD, as the new MAC Vice Chair.
- **KHARES Lead Sue Caponi** provided an overview of the KHARES contract, which functions to support the Networks as well as provide national coordination of emergency preparedness and response.

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

- CKM Syndrome Brochure (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 July, the Forum met with CMS colleagues to discuss plans for a **pediatric ESRD toolkit**, with a request to CMS for data on this population. Dr. Landry also provided an overview of the **healthy communities toolkit** which is nearly complete.
- In September, the Forum provided an overview of the new **hemodiafiltration (HDF) modality**. A patient joined the call to share his experience with HDF.

Forum Members in the Community



- D. Edwards. [Blog: Independence Shouldn't End when Illness Begins](#). Home Dialysis Central. (July)
- M. Baliker. [Podcast: Rethinking AMR in Kidney Transplant](#). Signals. (July)
- D. Edwards. CMS/KHARES Town Halls. (July & September)
- Forum Leadership. Supporting the ESRD Community through Education, Advocacy, and Coordination within the Kidney Care Ecosystem. Renal Healthcare Association 2026 Annual Conference. Savannah, GA. (September)
- M. Gilchrist, C. Gilchrist. LIVING on Dialysis: A Patient and Care Partner Story. American Nephrology Nurses Association's Fall Summit. Scottsdale, AZ. (September)
- M. Baliker. Patient Perspectives: Living Kidney Disease – Stories of Struggle, Strength, and Survival. American Nephrology Nurses Association's Fall Summit. (September)
- P. Gee. [Shared Family Experiences with Kidney Disease](#). CJASN. (September)
- D. Edwards. [Kidney Talkies Podcast](#). (September)



Forum Board members Mary Baliker, Donald Molony, MD, Brandy Vinson, Daniel Landry, DO, FASN, and Preethi Yerram, MD, at RHA's Annual Conference

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
- Release new Cardio-Kidney Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome brochure for patients
- Develop a pediatric ESRD toolkit to provide guidance at a national level
- Finalize the Healthy Communities toolkit to help advance patient empowerment and outcomes
- Revise KPAC's Transplant toolkit
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- 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

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



Questions/Comments:
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