

THE RENAL NETWORK, INC.
2009 Election to Medical Review Board
Candidate Statements

Medical Review Board: Nephrologist

Mary Hammes DO
University of Chicago Medical Centers
Chicago, IL

Personal Statement: I am currently an assistant director of medicine and medical director of Woodlawn Dialysis at the University of Chicago. I have been at the University of Chicago since 1995, beginning as an instructor of clinical medicine with promotion to an assistant professor of medicine in 1997 until the present. In this capacity, I have served as medical director of the Woodlawn Hemodialysis unit and have overseen the care of approximately 140 hemodialysis patients for the past 17 years. In addition to this, I have served as chairman of the Continuous Quality Improvement and Operations meetings since 1997. Both committees meet on a monthly basis and in this position I have been able to oversee the organization and operation of the Hemodialysis Program at the University of Chicago. The Renal Network is an organization that has the focus to ensure that quality and outcomes are met for hemodialysis patients. I am very impressed with the directives and emphasis on the initiatives for the Fistula First movement along with other improvements in compliance, clearance and anemia management. I have been able to speak at The Renal Network meetings in both 2005 and 2006, highlighting our fistula experience at the University of Chicago. I have attended the Vascular Access Advisory Panel meetings and have been inspired to institute a PICC line initiative at the University of Chicago with development of a research protocol that will help determine complications from small bore internal jugular PICC catheters. In summary, I find that The Renal Network's goals are similar to my own. With my wealth of experience, I feel that I could both give insightful ideas and recommendations to The Renal Network along with also bringing some of the ideas back to my own practice. With my experience with access, I could help launch new programs that will improve access outcomes for The Renal Network, including the University of Chicago.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Nephrologist

Richard Hellman MD*

Indiana University Medical Center

Indianapolis, IN

Personal Statement: Presently I am an associate professor of clinical medicine at Indiana University in the Division of Nephrology. I have had this position for nine and one-half years. Prior to that time, I was in the clinical practice of nephrology for over 20 years and was a consultant in nephrology at the SMDC Medical Group in Duluth, Minnesota. At that time, I was also an associate professor of clinical medicine at the University of Minnesota. During my career at Indiana University, I have had the pleasure of being involved with The Renal Network on several projects, including the Vascular Access Initiative, issues involving medical technicians in the dialysis unit and their accreditation, as part of the academic consortium for the planning of the 2003 meeting here in Indianapolis, and most recently as a committee member looking at the role of Medicare Part D in the hemodialysis population. I have been a temporary MRB member for the latter part of 2008. It is my feeling that my 30 years of experience in nephrology both at the private practice level and now at the academic level, and my involvement as medical director at DCI Indianapolis, an inner city dialysis unit, provides me with a range of experience that could be of some value on the Medical Review Board. I would be honored to be selected as a member of the Medical Review Board.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Nephrologist

Robert Heyka MD

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Cleveland, OH

Personal Statement: I thank Dr. Paganini for the nomination. Please place my name in nomination for the position on the Network Medical Review Board. My current position is as Section Head of Chronic Hemodialysis at the Cleveland Clinic. I have been at CC since 1985 and currently administer our ESRD program, act as a medical director of the ORCG Cleveland Clinic East unit and care for ESRD patients. I would like to expand my efforts as part of the Medical Review Board working for the five improvement goals and Core Purpose of the Network to achieve optimal wellness for our renal disease patients. Thank you.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Nephrologist

Maria Sobrero MD*

Associates in Nephrology

Chicago, IL

Personal Statement: Statement To Come.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Transplant Nephrologist

Prabir Roy-Chaudhury MD, PhD*

U of Cincinnati, Division of Nephrology

Cincinnati, OH

Personal Statement: I am a practicing nephrologist and a professor of medicine within the Division of Nephrology at the University of Cincinnati. My main area of clinical expertise is in kidney/pancreas transplantation, while my research interest is in the field of dialysis access. Both these areas are of great importance to practicing nephrologist and I hope to be able to contribute positively toward the work of The Renal Network in both fields. I have worked closely with The Renal Network over the last five years, both as a member of the Vascular Access Advisory Panel (5 years) and as a member of the Medical Review Board (4 years). I believe that I have been able to make a difference in both my areas of expertise but recognize that there is still a lot more to do in the rapidly changing environment that currently characterizes both transplantation and dialysis vascular access.

* *Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Nurse

Stephen Adley RN*

FMC-NA

North Olmsted, OH

Personal Statement: I would like to have the opportunity to continue to serve on the MRB to support our patients struggling with ESRD to ensure the Quality and Support of care delivered. I have had the opportunity to serve on the Patient Relations Committee as the chairperson and I believe the direction and follow up we have provide over the previous years has made a difference in assuring patients are heard and support is there plus has helped our facilities in this process.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Nurse

Catherine Colombo RN
Resurrection Medical Center
Chicago, IL

Personal Statement: It is my honor to accept the nomination for a position on the Medical Review Board. I am a registered nurse with 30 years of dialysis experience. I have held many different roles during my career from staff RN, quality coordinator, to manager. These roles have been in large dialysis organizations, academic facilities and private business. I would bring a diverse viewpoint to the MRB to participate in bettering the lives of the patients we serve through the work of the Board. I have served on the MRB in the past and would welcome another opportunity to serve again.

Medical Review Board: Nurse

Beth Smith RN

Nationwide Children's Hospital Medical Center

Columbus, OH

Personal Statement: My name is Beth Smith and I am applying for the nurse position for the Medical Review Board. I have been a pediatric dialysis RN for the past 27 years at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, of which I have been a certified nephrology nurse since 1990. I am an expert in both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. I also do the PD training for the peritoneal dialysis patients. I have been involved with the Pediatric Subgroup of The Renal Network since 1995, of which I have been the Chairperson for the past 11 years. I have been on the planning committee for the Fall Symposium of The Pediatric Network Group for the past six years. The conference is a great way for the pediatric staff to network with other pediatric staff from outside of our network. I have been associated with Kappa Kidney Camp for 23 years, which is a camp for children (ages 8 -18) in Ohio, that are either on dialysis or have had a kidney transplant. I have been involved with writing procedures and policies for this camp to help provide safe care for these children while they are at camp. I am looking forward to serving on this committee to help further my knowledge on dialysis issues, and to help make a difference in the care of the dialysis patient. I am interested in being involved in helping to provide safe care for these patients.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Technician

John Larsen CHT*

FMC-Terre Haute

Terre Haute, IN

Personal Statement: I would love to continue being a member of the Medical Review Board. I've only been on the MRB a very short time and it has been very much an honor and a privilege to be a member. I would like very much to continue being a member of the MRB and would appreciate very much to be voted back in. I will continue to be open minded and fair. To be voted back in is again very much an honor and privilege. Thank you.

* *Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Technician

Rena Rozell CHT

University of Chicago Medical Centers

Chicago, IL

Personal Statement: My 27 years of dialysis experience and a formal graduate of Malcolm X College Nephrology Program, on the clinical and management side, has given me a good perspective of the role of the technician. I enjoy teaching and encouraging others to join and participate by getting involved with The Renal Network. It's very important as certified technologists to maintain a professional attitude toward the work we have chosen to perform. It is just as important that we set boundaries and parameters necessary to successfully accomplish that professionalism. Technicians must know that The Renal Network is a resource for technicians seeking to enhance their skills. I want to continue encouraging all technicians to participate with The Renal Network symposia, conferences and workshops to enhance their knowledge and to help educate our renal patients.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Technician

Herbert Pierce CHT

Midwest Dialysis Center of Fairborn

Fairborn, OH

Personal Statement: I would like to seek a position on the Medical Review Board and serve on one of the subcommittees. I feel that I have something to offer to both of these subcommittees: Quality Improvement - I am always looking for ways to help our units to improve the quality of care and safety of our patients and staff. I also look for ways to reduce cost to the clinic. Patient Relations - I also feel that I could serve on this committee with the numbers of years that I spent in doing patient care. The patients become more than just a patient to the care giver. I feel that I would be a good listener for complaints or grievances. You need to get all the facts before you should make any decisions. I feel that the time spent doing patient care would also help in the area of patient education materials. I also helped at our unit starting a home hemodialysis program. I have been in dialysis for a total of 21 years, and I am affiliated with the Midwest Dialysis Centers of Springfield, Fairborn and Urbana. I would very much like to have your vote, and in return, I will serve to the best of my ability on the Medical Review Board.

** Denotes Incumbent*

Medical Review Board: Social Worker

Helen Kurtz MSW

PDCI-Home Dialysis of Dayton

Dayton, OH

Personal Statement: Most of my career has been in the nephrology field, beginning in the State of Florida, then Alabama, and I have been in Ohio now for nine years. I have served on the Patient Leadership Committee for seven years now and enjoy it very much. I feel it would be beneficial to both the Medical Review Board and myself to interact and collaborate with each other to improve outcomes for any and all dialysis patients.

Medical Review Board: Social Worker

Alan Meisterman MSW

DaVita Columbus Downtown

Columbus, OH

Personal Statement: I am seeking the Social Worker position on the Medical Review Board and believe I am qualified for this position. I am employed as a Licensed Independent Social Worker for DaVita, Inc., in Columbus, Ohio. I received a Master in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University in 1981 and a Master in Business Administration from Ohio University in 1984. I have the knowledge and experience to understand the business needs of our medical providers, and to understand how Medical Review Board policies and initiatives will impact our medical providers and our client populations. I have over 20 years of experience in outpatient kidney dialysis centers. I have served as a social worker, facility administrator, and as an insurance specialist. I am past patient services president of the National Kidney Foundation of Central Ohio. Under the support of the NKF-Central Ohio, I conducted a Patient and Family Support Group for nine years. I have specialized training in mediation and feel I am an excellent problem solver. I have a high math/statistics aptitude and am skilled at analyzing data and at reaching the necessary conclusions. Current volunteer activities include eight years service with the Meals on Wheels Program and six year with the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program. I remain a passionate and committed renal professional.

** Denotes Incumbent*