COVID-19 Information for Providers of Dialysis Services  
March 11, 2020

Speaker Bios

Alan Kliger, MD
Dr. Kliger is a Clinical Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine. He is a member of the Standing Renal Committee for the National Quality Forum, and chairs the Nephrologists Transforming Dialysis Safety initiative, a national partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN). He served formerly as Senior Vice President Medical Affairs, Chief Quality Officer, Yale New Haven Health System and Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven Connecticut. He is a past president of the Renal Physicians Association, and serves on its Quality, Safety and Accountability Committee. He is a past president of the Forum of ESRD Networks. He served as chair of the steering committee for the NIH Frequent Hemodialysis Study, a national prospective randomized study of in-center daily and home nocturnal hemodialysis, and currently chairs the steering committee for an NIH/NIDDK Consortium on Novel Therapies for Hemodialysis Patients.

Elizabeth McNamara, RN
Elizabeth McNamara is the Vice President of Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Northwest Kidney Centers, the world’s first dialysis organization who has led the way for kidney disease treatment and research since 1962. Prior to joining the Kidney Center Liz spent 26 years serving different roles at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle including in clinical care, education and administration. Liz received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Portland. She earned her Masters of Nursing specializing as a nurse educator at the University of Washington. She is also a graduate of America’s Essential Hospitals Executive Women’s Leadership Academy. Liz is an active member of several national organizations, as well as a President of the Board of Ensemble Ballet Theatre.

Shannon Novosad, MD, MPH
Shannon Novosad, MD, MPH is a Medical Officer with the Dialysis Safety Team in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Novosad received her medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She completed internal medicine residency training at Duke University and subspecialty training in pulmonary/critical care medicine at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). In 2015, Dr. Novosad came to CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer assigned to the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion where she investigated outbreaks in healthcare settings. Her areas of concentration include prevention of central line-associated bloodstream infections and increasing safety of patients on dialysis.
Darlene Rodgers, BSN, RN, CNN, CPHQ

Ms. Rodgers is a nephrology nurse with experience in hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, administration, quality improvement, federal regulatory aspects of ESRD care, and ESRD Network organization management. She has nearly 40 years of experience caring for patients and families in the nephrology setting. As the Nurse Consultant for the ASN/CDC Nephrologists Transforming Dialysis Safety initiative, Ms. Rodgers supports the Current and Emerging Threats Workgroup, the Blood Culture Collection Standardization Subcommittee and the Decreasing Transmission of C-Diff Subcommittee. In addition to her work with the NTDS initiative, Ms. Rodgers provides support for ASN’s Emergency Partnership Initiative.

Mrs. Rodgers graduated from the University of Colorado, School of Nursing and she has completed national certifications in nephrology nursing and healthcare quality. She is a member of the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association, the National Kidney Foundation, and the National Association of Healthcare Quality.

Jeffrey Silberzweig, MD

Dr. Jeffrey Silberzweig is a nephrologist in New York, NY, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including New York – Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and New York-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital. He received his medical degree from the University of Buffalo, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and completed his residency at Beth Israel Medical Center, Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Silberzweig has been in practice for 28 years. He has extensive experience in general nephrology and dialysis. His research interests include use of Biomarkers in patients requiring maintenance hemodialysis.

Dr. Silberzweig is currently the Chief Medical Officer of The Rogosin Institute. He is also Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Silberzweig co-chair’s ASN’s Emergency Partnership Initiative (EPI).

Suzanne Watnick, MD

Dr. Suzanne Watnick is Chief Medical Officer at Northwest Kidney Centers and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at the University of Washington. Prior to joining Northwest Kidney Centers, Dr. Watnick was the acting division chief of nephrology at Portland’s Veteran Affairs Medical Center. She served as medical director of the dialysis unit for 14 years and began the home dialysis program there. She also currently practices in the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle.

She has served on the public policy board of the American Society of Nephrology for several years and has expertise in patient advocacy, payment reform and quality improvement.

Dr. Watnick received her undergraduate degree from Harvard and her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She did her residency at University of California San Francisco and was a nephrology fellow at UCSF and Yale University.