Management of Diabetes and Kidney Disease through COVID-19

August 18, 2020

Speaker Bios

Ann Bullock, MD
Panelist

Dr. Ann Bullock is a Board-certified family physician who has worked for the Indian Health Service since 1990. She is the Director of the Division of Diabetes for the Indian Health Service and an author on numerous journal articles and reports regarding diabetes in the American Indian/Alaska Native population.

Paul T. Conway
Moderator

Mr. Conway is a patient advocate who has managed kidney disease for the past forty years, including nearly three years on home dialysis and as a kidney transplant recipient for the past twenty-three years. As a national policy professional, he has served under four presidents and three governors and his awards include the Department of Homeland Security Secretary’s Meritorious Service Silver Medal and the ASN President’s Medal.

Derek Forfang
Moderator

Derek Forfang is a 10-year veteran of advocacy on behalf of people with kidney diseases. For 20 years, Mr. Forfang has had kidney failure and has experienced in-center hemodialysis before receiving a kidney transplant. His experience in and with people on dialysis provides firsthand knowledge into the culture of dialysis clinics and how the current system is not designed to be people centered. He has served in many leadership roles across the kidney community including the National Kidney Foundation and the National Forum of ESRD Networks.
Kevin J. Fowler  
Panelist

Kevin Fowler has over 30 years of Life Sciences experience in pharmaceutical organizations both commercial and R&D. His career has encompassed a breadth and depth of skills and experiences. During his career, he demonstrated leadership in sales management, training, public affairs, global marketing, patient advocacy, and patient marketing. Kevin formed his own patient advocacy and patient-engagement consulting business in 2014, The Voice of the Patient, Inc. His clients have included: CareDx, Immucor Inc., Hansa Medical, Horizon Pharma, TapCloud LLC, Otsuka, Omeros, Protalix Biotherapeutics, and patientMpower. In 2017, Kevin was selected to be a Patient Editor of the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

Based upon his personal experiences of having a pre-emptive kidney transplant in 2004, he has a deep passion for patient advocacy and patient engagement. Kevin brings the patient voice to several organizations as a volunteer:

- National Kidney Foundation, Kidney Advocacy Committee
- Board of Directors, American Association of Kidney Patients
- Kidney Research Institute, Patient Advisory Committee
- PKD Foundation, Patient Registry Committee
- Empower PKD, Advisory Board

Patrick O. Gee, Sr., PhD, JLC  
Panelist

Dr. Gee is a Healthcare Consultant and Consumer Advocate. He is also Founder and CEHD, iAdvocate, Inc., a Faith-based Health & Wellness organization. Patrick is a kidney transplant recipient of three-years, diabetic, and COVID-19 survivor. Patrick is a Patient Representative member of the DKD-Collaborative Task Force and also serves on the KHI Patient Family Partnership Council, AAKP Board of Directors, and the Patient Family Centered-Care partners Advisory Board just to name a few of the multitude of organizations and entities that he serves on. Patrick’s motto is, "I am the Voice of the Voiceless and the Face of the Faceless in the fight against kidney disease."

Jennifer Green, MD  
Panelist

Dr. Jennifer Green is a professor of medicine and endocrinologist at Duke University and the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI). Her research has focused upon strategies to treat diabetes and reduce the risk of cardiovascular, renal and other complications. Her work with the DCRI has included leadership of several international trials designed to determine the cardiovascular effects of glucose-lowering medications (TECOS, EXSCEL, and Harmony Outcomes), and she is now the US coordinating center PI for the EMPA-Kidney trial. Dr. Green is also a member of the ADA Professional Practice Committee, which publishes the annual Standards of Care in Diabetes.
Prior to joining the University of Washington Center for Dialysis Innovation (CDI) and the Kidney Research Institute (KRI) as the Director of External Relations & Patient Engagement, Glenda V. Roberts was an Information Technology executive with over 35 years of experience with top-caliber corporations, including General Electric, Microsoft and Johnson & Johnson. She was also the Executive Director of the Seattle Transplant House.

Before going on dialysis, Glenda managed the progression of her disease for over 40 years using diet and exercise. Since her transplant in 2010, she’s completed eight half marathons. Based upon her personal experience with kidney disease, Glenda brings the patient voice to myriad patient-centered national and international health care transformation initiatives. All are focused on addressing patient preferences and improving patient-reported outcomes.