



Forum Matters

Highlights & Updates

First Quarter 2023

What is the Forum?



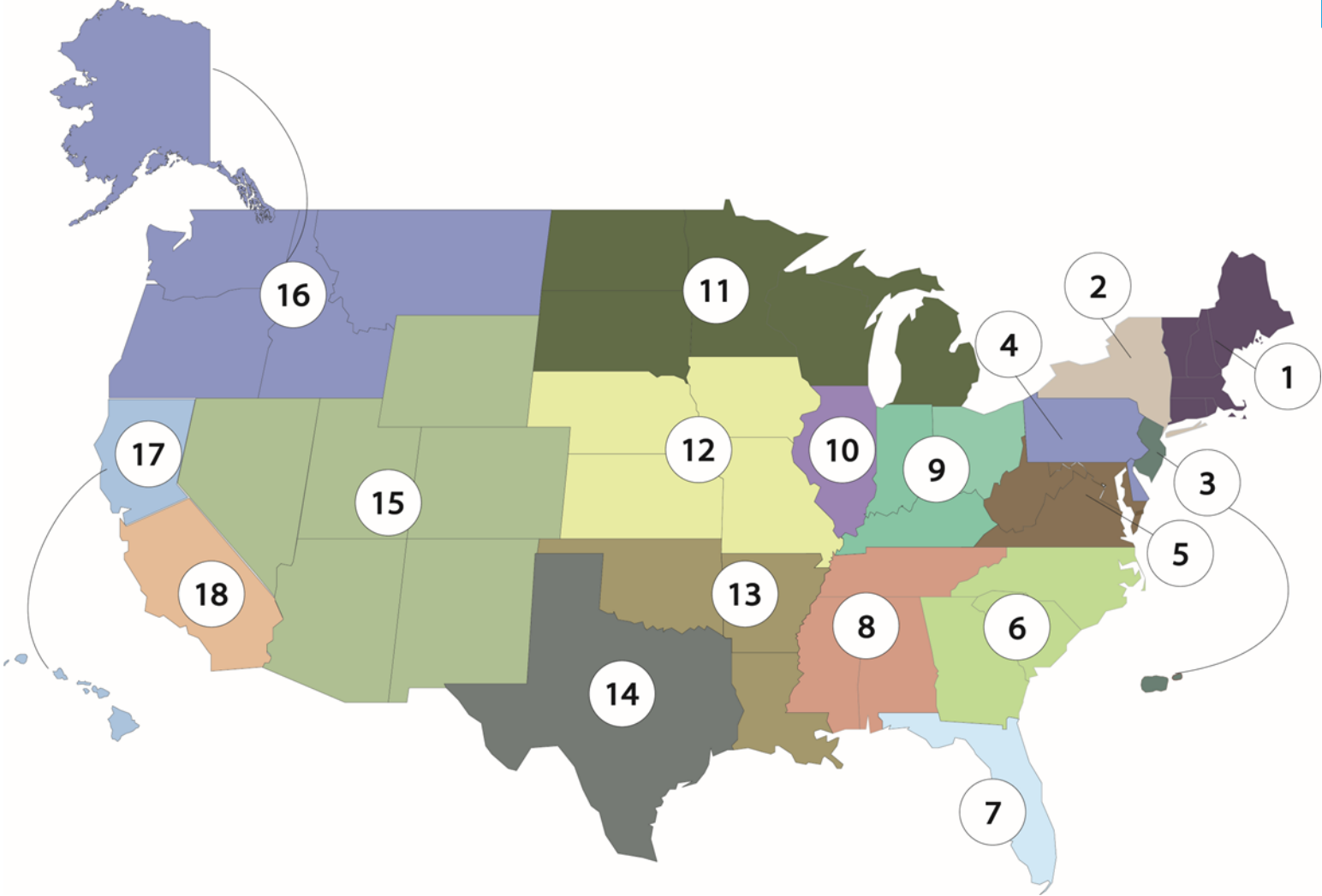
All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda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

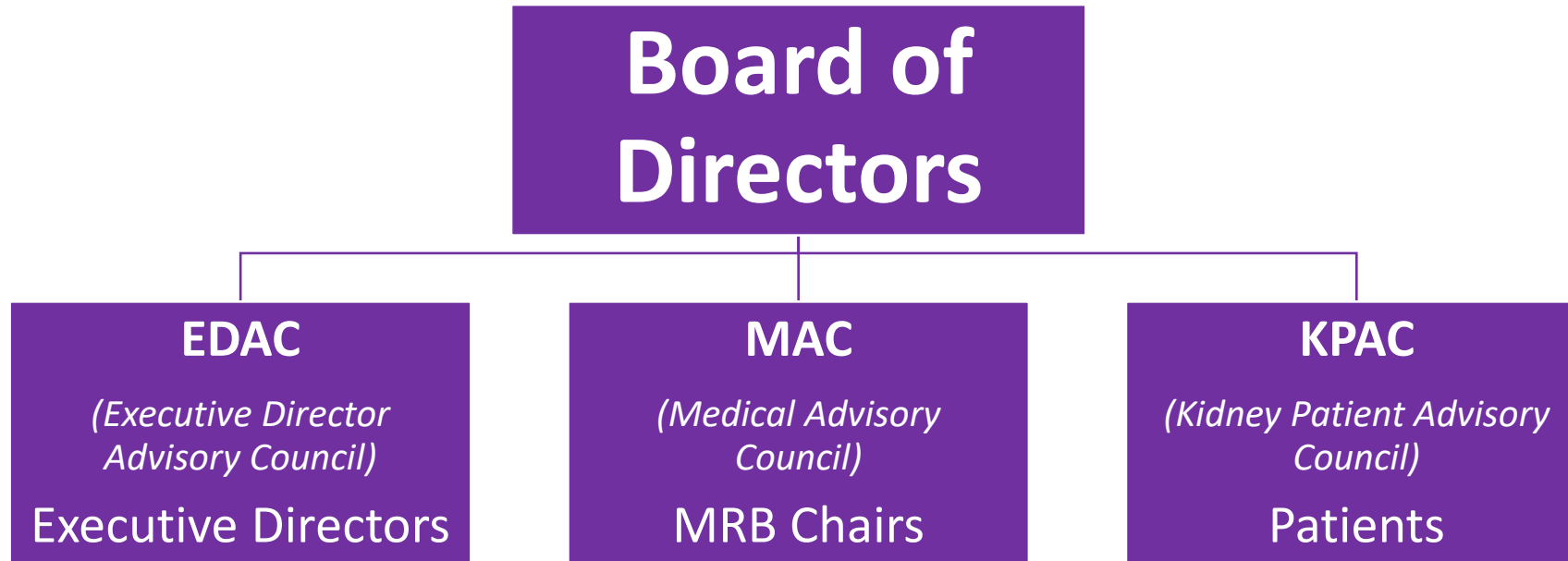
- Volunteerism
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Spread of Knowledge
- Integrity
- Autonomy of Individual ESRD Networks
- Person (Patient & Family) Centeredness

ESRD Networks



Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17

- Strategic Partnerships
 - Continued collaboration with CMS, RPA, and other stakeholders
 - Continued development of new toolkits and updates to existing toolkits
- Board Development
 - Conducting Board elections for President-Elect, Treasurer, and 2 Members-at-Large in Spring 2023
 - Engaged in NKF Policy presentation at March 2023 Board meeting
- Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement
 - Developed social media plan for 2023
 - Reported toolkit downloads (since 2019) via Quality Conference poster
 - Established LinkedIn profile (now have a modest 47 followers)
 - Posted *Forum Matters* to the Forum website
- Resource Identification
 - Worked on fundraising plan to diversify revenue sources to increase overall asset base



- Assisting the Networks
- Council Activities: MAC, EDAC KPAC
- Regular Communication with CMS
- Quality Conference Webinars
- Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
- Relationships with other Stakeholders (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, AHQA, CDC, ASN)

Forum Presidents



Elbert P. Tuttle, Jr.

(1976-1978)

Robert J. Soberman

(1978-1980)

Frederick Westervelt

(1980-1982)

Dominick E. Gentile, MD

(1982-1984)

William W. Pfaff, MD

(1984-1986)

Sidney Baskin

(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 - Present)

Executive Committee:

President: David Henner, DO

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

Past President: Ralph Atkinson III, MD

Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Secretary: Chris Brown

MAC Chair: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

MAC Vice-Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

EDAC Chair: Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN

EDAC Vice-Chair: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ

KPAC Co-Chair: Derek Forfang

KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards

Members-at-Large:

Christine Logar, MD, FASN

Kelly M. Mayo, MS

Keith Norris, MD PhD

Stephen Pastan, MD

Maria Regnier, MSN, RN, CNN

Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Ad Hoc:

Andrew Howard, MD, FACP

Donald Molony, MD

John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:

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

Chair:	Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Vice-Chair:	Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Networks 1/2	Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ
Networks 3/4	Chris Brown
Network 5	Brandy Vinson
Network 6	Danielle Daley, MBA
Networks 7/13/15/17/18	Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW
Networks 8/14	Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Network 9	Victoria L. Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Network 10	Audrey Broaddus
Network 11	Dee LeDuc
Network 12	Stephanie L. Smith
Network 16	Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Chair: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

Vice Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Immediate Past Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPA, PhD

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

Network 8: Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN

Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS

Network 10: Andres Serrano, MD

Network 11: Louis Raymond, MD

Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Network 13: Laura Rankin, MD

Network 14: Donald Molony, MD

Network 15: Harmeet Singh, MD

Network 16: Christine Logar, MD

Network 17: Ramin Sam, MD

Network 18: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Ad Hoc Member: Stephen Pastan, MD

EDAC Rep: Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ
(1/2)

QID Rep: Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN,
BSN, CNN (16)

KPAC Rep: Derek Forfang (17)

Network 1: Jerry Calabritto

Network 2: Stephanie Dixon

Dawn Edwards (**Co-Chair**)

Network 3: Bill Senior

Joy Solomon

Network 4: Timmy Nelson

Network 5: Virna Elly

Patrick Gee

Network 6: Dolores McGrath

Network 7: Janice Starling

Network 8: Jacqueline Bland

Terry Peeler

Network 9: Evan Coaker

Network 10: Quin Taylor

Network 11: Jeff Nelson

Patricia Bologna

Mary Baliker

Network 12: Shane Blanchard

Network 13: Bobby Walker

Network 14: Precious McCowan

Network 15: Lynne Hall

Network 16: Bob Crabtree

Lisa Custer

Network 17: Derek Forfang (**Co-Chair**)

Doris Lew

Network 18: Terry McCallum

EDAC Rep: Dee LeDuc (NW 11)

PSD Reps: Yessi Cubillo (NW 3)

Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16)

Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings



Forum Executive Committee:

- Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:

- Quarterly conference calls
- 2023 Meetings: March 7 & 10 (virtual), summer/fall in-person meeting TBD

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls

- Conference calls
- In-Person Meeting at CMS Quality Conference *(2020, no in-person meeting in 2021, 2022, or 2023)*

CMS/Network/Forum COVID-19 Calls

- Weekly calls began April 2020, transitioned to monthly in November 2020, ended May 2021, monthly calls resumed August 2021, bi-monthly calls began February 2022

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

- Quarterly conference calls
- Annual MAC Meeting: TBD

Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)

- Monthly conference calls
- Meeting with CMS & Division of Kidney Health/iQIIG Leaders
- Periodic calls with FMC, DaVita, DCI, RHA

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)

- Monthly conference calls

- Andy Howard, MD, reviewed the ESRD PPS 2023 Final Rule with Board members.
- Sharon Pearce, Senior Vice President for Government Relations, and Ivory Harding, Regulatory and Quality Affairs Director, at the National Kidney Foundation joined the call to share NKF policy updates with the Board.
- Each Strategic Priority workgroup shared goals, updates, and outstanding issues with the Board.

Updates from EDAC Leadership:

- Vicky Cash, EDAC Chair, shared current Network performance for Option Year 1
- Option Year 2 begins May 1, 2023

Updates from KPAC Leadership:

- The KPAC lost member Dawn Goertz when she passed away on January 23, 2023. Ms. Goertz was an in-center hemodialysis patient and a vocal advocate for patients, both in her facility and on the KPAC. She will be missed greatly by the Forum and her KPAC colleagues.
- The KPAC is reviewing its business plan and strategic priorities, which include
 - Supporting Forum/Network efforts re: COVID-19
 - Completing a Health Equity Toolkit
 - Making a patient video for the MAC Home Dialysis Toolkit
 - Developing a toolkit on cardiovascular disease & CKD
 - Developing short videos/webinars about KPAC resources and orientation materials for new KPAC members
 - Exploring financial resources to help support the Forum
- KPAC members continue participation on a number of TEPs, including but not limited to
 - Impact Assessment Report 2024 of CMS Quality and Efficiency Measures
 - ESRD PPS
 - Slowing Progression of CKD
 - Transplant After Care

Updates from MAC Leadership:

- Home Dialysis Toolkit prepared for peer review
- Vaccine Toolkit article submission
- Proposed new toolkits:
 - Practicing Health Equity & Patient-Provider Collaboration in Kidney Care
 - Person-Centered CKD Care Planning and Measures
 - Conservative Management & Supportive Care for Kidney Patients
- CMS Quality Conference poster submission on Forum toolkit utilization (via website)
- Communication with CMS re: ideas to address the dialysis facility staffing shortages
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP)
 - Network submissions in review

Professional Toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit
- Vaccination Toolkit
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Home Dialysis Toolkit (update in progress)
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit

Patient Toolkits:

- Health Equity Toolkit (in progress)
- Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
- Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
- Financial Help Resources
- Kidney Patient Transplant Toolkit
 - *Patient video providing an overview of the toolkit available at https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Is_A_Kidney_Transplant_Right_For_Me.mp4; consider sharing with your patients!*

MAC Toolkit	Updates
Home Dialysis Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sections to address AAKH and Conditions for Coverage updates • Emergency management of home dialysis patients • Impact of ESCOs, ETC Model, Voluntary Models on home therapies • Enhanced modality education: transitional care and hands-on experience care options • Emerging technology and the impact and benefits to home therapies • Addressing disparities and access to care • Home therapy options in the LTC/nursing home setting • KPAC Section: Empowering patients and care partners to be successful at home
Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency preparedness (Henner) • COVID (Kalantar) • Leadership (Molony)
Transitions of Care Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing home communication tool • COVID • Medication reconciliation • Add flu and COVID vaccine information to the transfer summary forms in the toolkit
Vaccination Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID Vaccination • Vaccination tracking tool now includes COVID vaccine and pneumococcal booster + age so facilities can track patients >64 YO for PPSV-23 booster

Forum Toolkit Utilization, CY 2021 to CY 2022 Comparison

Toolkit	CY 2021	CY 2022	% Change
Home Dialysis	18	182	+911
Transitions of Care	73	502	+587
Vaccination	56	213	+280
Outpatient Med Director	165	360	+118
Inpatient Med Director	44	264	+500
Kidney Transplant	27	211	+681
Catheter Reduction	9	92	+922
QAPI	126	526	+317

Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- **Anita Monteiro**, Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- **Shane Illies**, Deputy Director, iQIIG
- **Vacant**, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement
- **Shalon Quinn**, Special Advisor – Data Initiatives
- **Melissa Dorsey**, Acting Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Vacant**, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Mitzi Christ**, Regional Program Manager, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- CORs, ARAs, Central Office staff

2023 Calls: 2/13

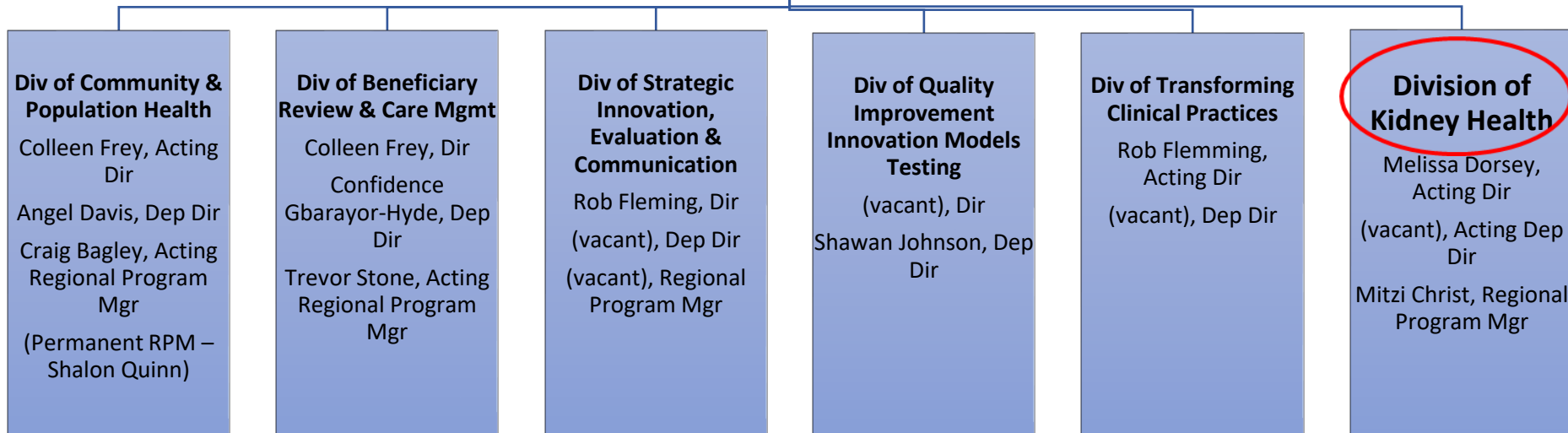
CMS Organizational Chart

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for
Medicare and Medicaid
Innovation

iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group

Anita Monteiro, Director
Shane Illies, Deputy Director
Shalon Quinn, PhD, Special Advisory-Data Initiatives
Vacant, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality
Improvement



CMS Org Chart:

https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/CMSLeadership/Office_CCSQ.html

- The Forum submitted to CMS innovations to address the critical dialysis staffing shortage; discussion on this topic is ongoing.
- Andy Howard, MD, continues to share transplant metrics with CMS and Forum leadership.
- Chris Brown, Executive Director of Networks 3 & 4, continues to share COVID-19 updates, including vaccination trends and information of vaccine availability.

- Forum leadership continued to bring COVID priorities and concerns to CMS during monthly CMS/Forum leadership calls. Forum leaders provided updates on:
 - Rates of COVID testing for kidney patients
 - COVID positivity rates among kidney patients
 - Vaccination rates among kidney patients and dialysis staff
 - Kidney transplant and waitlist rates
 - Network observations on COVID-related technical assistance
 - Kidney patient observations
 - **Dialysis supply & staffing shortages**

Minutes, recordings, resources: <https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/covid-19-information-resources>

What Else Has the Forum Been Doing?



- The Forum received a \$5000 grant from PCORI to support the dissemination of Evidence Updates related to treating depression in patients with kidney disease. The Forum completed three activities to help promote the PCORI Evidence Updates:
 1. Patient-perspective piece summarizing KPAC members' participation in study and their experiences related to mental health and kidney disease. To be published in *CJASN* in 2023.
 2. Podcast, released in October 2022, on the topic of mental health in dialysis patients to bring awareness to the topic and offer resources for patients, including the PCORI Evidence Updates and the KPAC Depression Toolkit. Available at <https://www.kidney.org/podcasts/kidney-commute>
 3. Partnering with the ESRD Networks, the KPAC hosted a community webinar on January 5, 2023, on the topic of mental health in dialysis patients, annual depression screening, and treatment options. Available at <https://esrdnetworks.org/education/depression-in-dialysis-patients/>

Forum Members in the Community

1st Quarter 2023



- P. Bologna. Transplant Living Community Ambassador. Henry Ford Health. (Ongoing)
- D. Forfang, P. Gee, L. Custer. Webinar: Perspectives: Treating Depression in Dialysis Patients. (January 2023)
- D. Henner, D. Forfang, P. McCowan. SMarRT-HD Study Stakeholder Panel Meeting (PCORI). Chapel Hill, NC. (February 2023)
- P. Gee. National Kidney Foundation Central Virginia Lunch and Learn. Richmond, VA. (March 2023)
- D. Edwards. Chronic Kidney Disease, Education, and Peer Mentorship. Rogosin Institute Kidney Care Innovation Virtual Symposium. (March 2023)
- P. Gee. Advancements in Medications for Diabetic Kidney Disease. American Kidney Fund. Virtual. (March 2023)
- P. Gee. Understanding the Priorities for the Use of Digital Health Technologies (DHTs) to Support Clinical Trials for Drug Development and Review. FDA/Duke/Margolis Virtual Meeting. (March 2023)
- D. Forfang, M. Baliker, J. Nelson. National Kidney Foundation on Capitol Hill Patient Advocacy Committee. Washington, DC. (March 2023)

- Advancing American Kidney Health
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- Updates to MAC Toolkits and development of three new MAC Toolkits
- New KPAC Toolkits
- Actively pursuing additional financial resources to support Forum/Network activities
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices in the Kidney Community: consider submitting a best practice to the Forum's new community education resource

<https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-best-practices-in-the-kidney-community>

Donate Online!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Forum of ESRD Networks. The browser address bar displays <https://esrdnetworks.org>. The page features the organization's logo and a navigation menu with items: Home, About Us, Membership, Toolkits, Resources & News, Education, and Contact. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area includes a map of the United States divided into 18 numbered regions, with a text box below it that reads "ESRD Networks - contact information". To the right of the map, a green "Donate" button is circled in red. Below this button, a text block states: "The National Forum of ESRD Networks, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #13-3246354. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services will be provided by the Forum in return or consideration for this contribution. Donations can also be mailed to the Forum Office at PO Box 203, Birchwood, WI 54817." Below this text is a "Donate now" button. Further down, a blue box titled "What's new on the Forum website?" contains a link to "Learn about the new Transplant Toolkit for Patients" and a link to "Is A Kidney Transplant Right for Me?". The footer of the page reads "Welcome to the Forum of ESRD Networks website".

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 non-profit organization and do all this through volunteer members and limited financial resources.

Your donation directly supports this work.

All donations are tax deductible.

[Donate Here](https://esrdnetworks.org/donate)

<https://esrdnetworks.org/donate>

Forum of ESRD Networks
PO Box 70623
Henrico, VA 23255



Followers:

Feb 2020 = 134

Aug 2022 = 303

March 2023 = 309



Followers:

Feb 2020 = 95

Aug 2022 = 331

March 2023 = 353



Followers:

March 2023 = 47



Followers:

May 2021 = 6

Aug 2022 = 11

March 2023 = 12



esrdnetworks.org



<https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks>



<https://twitter.com/ESRDNetworks> (tag us @esrdnetworks)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-forum-of-esrd-networks-inc>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g>

Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:
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