



Forum Matters

**Highlights & Updates
First Quarter 2024**

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

What is the Forum?



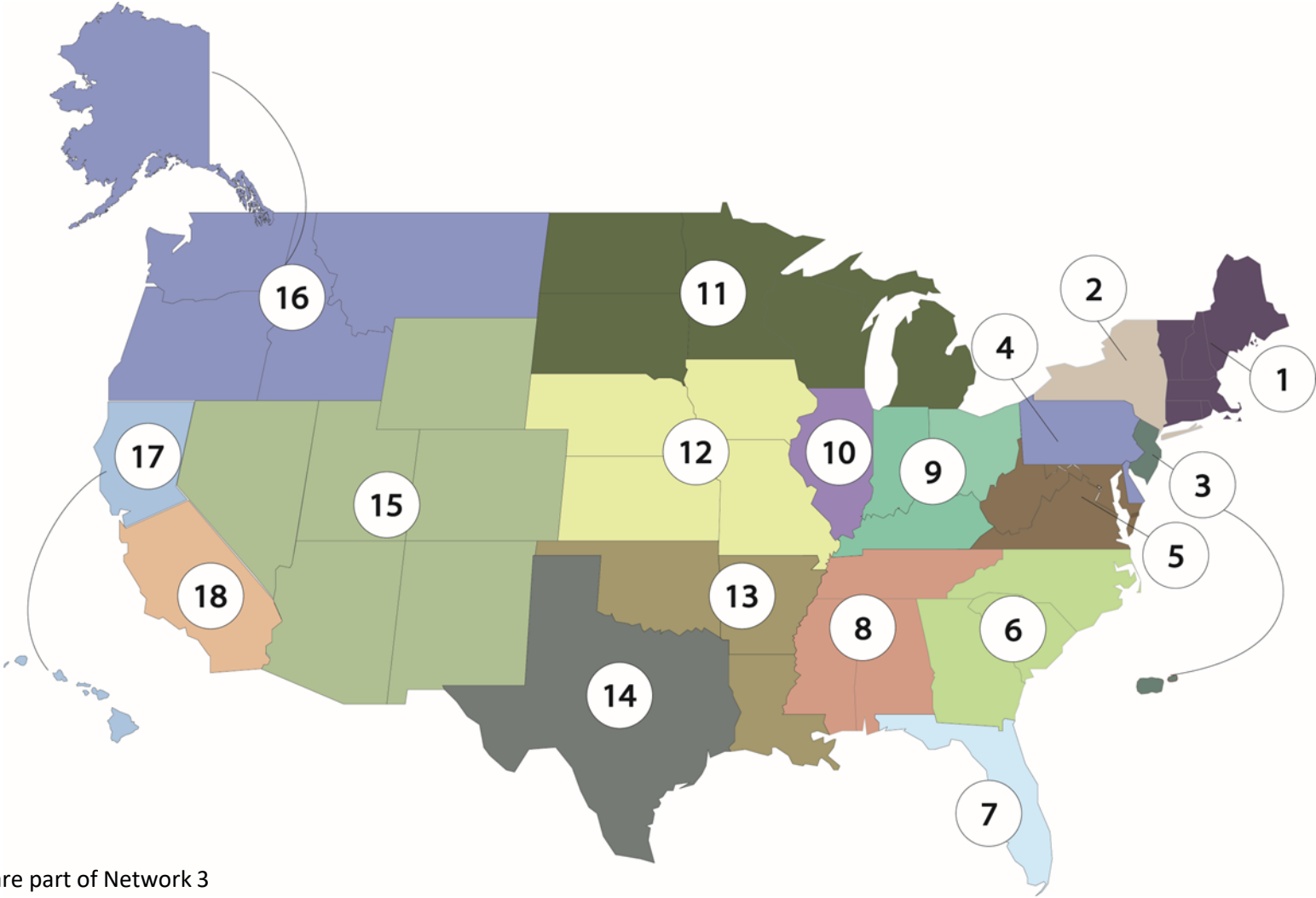
All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda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

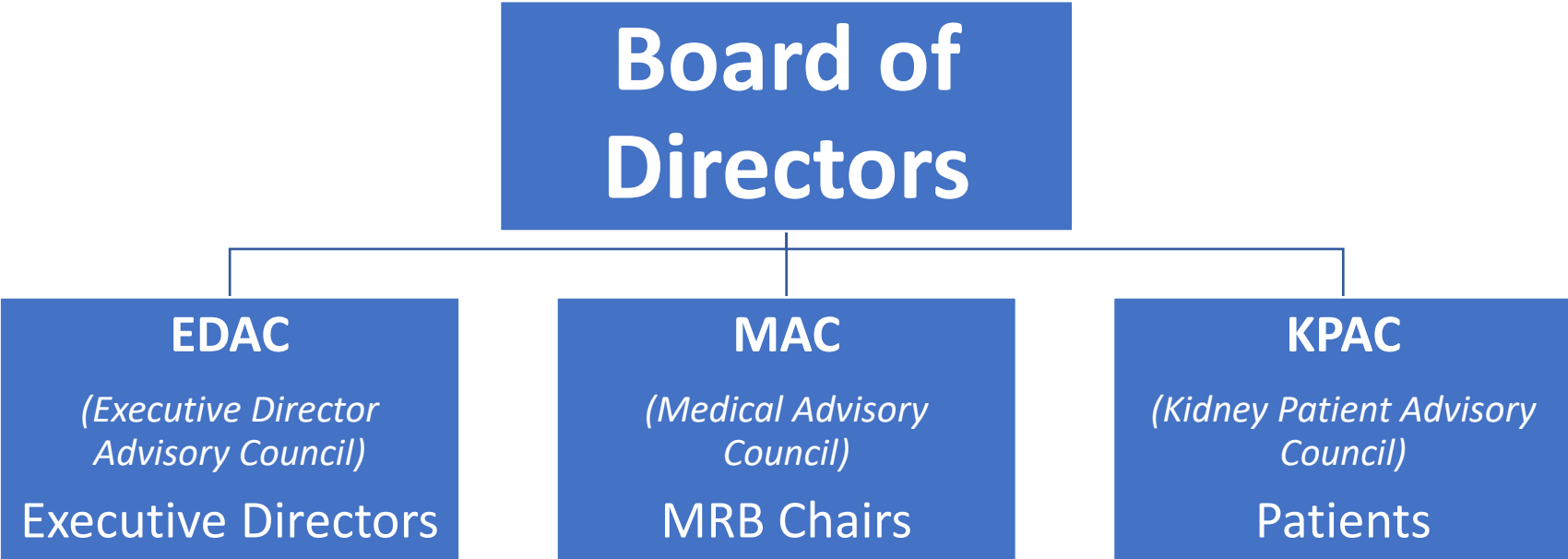


Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17

Strategic Planning Priorities and Updates

- Strategic Partnerships
 - Continued collaboration with CMS, NKF, RPA, and other stakeholders
 - Met with VA to discuss possible collaboration
 - Continued development of new toolkits
- Board Development
 - Began development of member questionnaire to gauge areas of interest/expertise
- Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement
 - Implemented social media plans for 2023 and 2024
 - Rolled out Kidney Month campaign via social media in March 2024
 - Added an [Instagram account](#) in February 2024
- Resource Identification
 - Continued work on fundraising plan to diversify revenue sources
 - Saw impressive response to the [Derek Forfang Memorial Fund](#) with donations totaling \$10,000 in 2023. Funds are restricted to KPAC activities.

Organizational Chart



- Assisting the Networks
- Council Activities: MAC, EDAC KPAC
- Regular Communication with CMS
- Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
- Relationships with other Stakeholders (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, 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 - 2023)

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

(2023-Present)

Forum Board of Directors (July 2023)



Executive Committee:

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

President-Elect: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

Past President: David Henner, DO

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: Dawn Edwards

Interim KPAC Co-Chair: Mary Baliker

Members-at-Large:

Christine Logar, MD, FASN

Kelly M. Mayo, MS

Keith Norris, MD PhD

Stephen Pastan, MD

Maria Regnier, MSN, RN, CNN

Dee LeDuc

Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Ad Hoc:

Andrew Howard, MD, FACP

Donald Molony, MD

John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:

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

Executive Directors Advisory Council (July 2023)



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	Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Network 10	Audrey Broaddus
Network 11	Dee LeDuc
Network 12	Stephanie Smith
Network 16	Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Medical Advisory Council (November 2023)



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, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Network 8: Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN

Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS

Network 10: Daniel Roseman, 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: Dawn Edwards (2)

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (March 2024)



- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| Network 1: | Laurie Pease
Sherrie Shively | Network 11: | Jeff Nelson
Mary Baliker (Interim Co-Chair) |
| Network 2: | Dawn Edwards (Co-Chair) | Network 12: | Shane Blanchard
Anita Kucera |
| Network 3: | Bill Senior
Stephanie Dixon
Anthony Abbate | Network 13: | Yazzi Bishop |
| Network 4: | Timmy Nelson | Network 14: | Precious McCowan
Abby Ruiz |
| Network 5: | Virna Elly
Patrick Gee | Network 15: | VACANT |
| Network 6: | Jamall Wimberly
Eric Dolby | Network 16: | Bob Crabtree
Lisa Custer |
| Network 7: | Janice Starling | Network 17: | Doris Lew |
| Network 8: | VACANT | Network 18: | Wendy Skinner |
| Network 9: | Evan Coaker
Laura Wilcox | EDAC Rep: | Dee LeDuc (NW 11) |
| Network 10: | VACANT | 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
- 2024 Meeting: September 20-21 (Las Vegas, NV)

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls

- Monthly conference calls
- In-person meetings at CMS Quality Conference

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

- Quarterly conference calls
- 2024 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, RHA

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)

- Monthly conference calls

Highlights from March 2024 Meeting

- President Dr. Kam Kalantar presented his President's Report, including information on the Forum's solid relationship with CMS colleagues and highlighting Forum activities, such as toolkits and publications.
- KPAC Interim Co-Chair Mary Baliker shared information about Kidney Month and the social media campaign the KPAC developed.
- EDAC Chair Vicky Cash shared updates on the Networks' contract performance to-date, noting that Networks are performing well on the transplantation measures and the transition to home dialysis measure. She also noted challenges to some of the measures, citing data issues and apathy toward vaccination among staff and patients.
- MAC Chair Dan Landry shared that the MAC continues work on its health equity toolkit, and the MAC is considering exhibiting its toolkits via Zoom to some fellowship programs. There has been a request to collaborate on a palliative care toolkit as well. The SHEP program has another approved submission, available on the Forum's [website](#).
- Treasurer Stephanie Counter provided an overview of Forum finances in 2023, noting the impressive donations to the [Derek Forfang Memorial Fund](#), which will fund KPAC activities.

Professional Toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit
- Vaccination Toolkit
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Home Dialysis Toolkit (update released August 2023)
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit
- Health Equity Toolkit (in progress)

Patient Toolkits

- Cardiovascular Toolkit (in progress)
- 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!*

Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

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

2024 Calls: 1/8, 2/12, 3/11

CMS Organizational Chart

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for
Medicare and Medicaid
Innovation

iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group

Anita Monteiro, Director

Sara Brice-Payne, Acting Deputy Director

Shalon Quinn, PhD, Special Advisory-Data Initiatives

Vacant, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality
Improvement



DHHS/CMS Organizational Chart:

https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/agency-information/cmsleadership/downloads/cms_organizational_chart.pdf

- On the January call with CMS, KPAC Co-Chair Dawn Edwards spoke about the need for staff-assisted home dialysis. She noted that by providing support at home, it would give more patients the opportunity to get home and help patients who are home stay home.
- In February, the EDAC members reflected on the Network site visits with Melissa Dorsey. Ms. Dorsey also shared her experience with the site visits. The visits were mutually beneficial, with the Networks citing greater commitment to the work following Ms. Dorsey's visits.
- The March meeting focused on the ESRD Treatment Choices (ETC) Model with presentations from Dr. Amal Trivedi (Brown University School of Public Health) and Dr. Andy Howard (Forum Board). Both spoke about dialysis facility performance and outcomes under the model, with Dr. Trivedi focusing specifically on social risk.

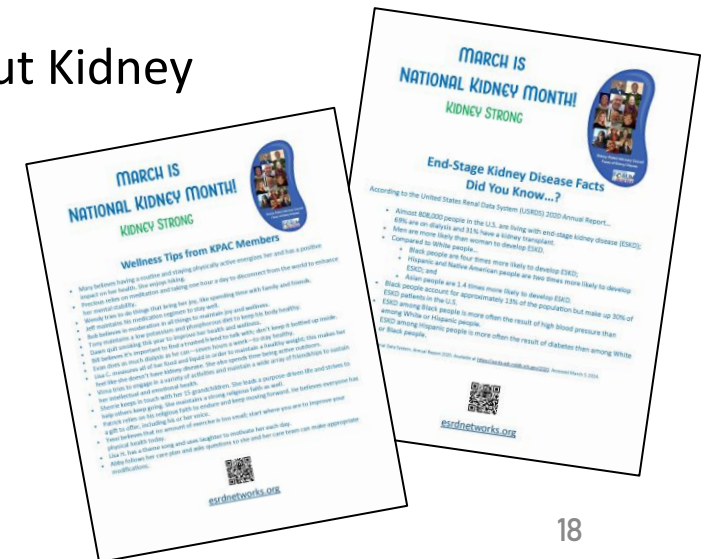
What Else Has the Forum Been Doing?

- FOUR new Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) initiatives have been approved and posted to the [Forum website](#). More highly effective practices are forthcoming.
- In February, the Forum sent a [letter of support](#) for dental services for ESRD patients to CMS.
- In March, Forum leadership met with representatives from the Veterans Administration to discuss possible collaborations.
- The Forum membership has produced publications on topics such as dialysis facility closures and vaccination (see next slide for details).

Forum Members in the Community



- K. Norris. Structural Competency Training Module (Virtual). ESRD National Coordinating Center. (January)
- K. Kalantar-Zadeh, D. Edwards, D. Henner, D. Landry, D. Molony, P. Yerram on behalf of the Forum of ESRD Networks. [Closure of dialysis clinics in the United States in 2021-2023](#). *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol*. (January)
- R. Sam, L. Rankin, D. Henner, D. Molony, J. Wagner, A. Howard, D. Landry, S. Pastan, K. Kalantar-Zadeh, et al. [Vaccination for patients receiving dialysis](#). *Kidney Medicine*. (March)
- In March, KPAC members provided outreach to increase awareness about Kidney Month.
 - The KPAC produced a social media campaign including flyers about kidney disease.
 - A. Kucera created awareness ribbon cards for her dialysis facility.
 - S. Shively hosted a kidney friendly food drive at a local grocery store.



On the Horizon in 2024



- Advancing American Kidney Health
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- 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>

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 donation directly supports this work.

All donations are tax deductible.



Social Media



Followers:
Feb 2020 = 134
March 2024 = 371



Followers:
Feb 2020 = 95
March 2024 = 449



Followers:
March 2023 = 47
March 2024 = 150

NEW!!



Followers:
March 2024 = 13



Social Media



esrdnetworks.org



<https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks>



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



<https://www.instagram.com/forumofesrdnetworks/> **NEW!!**



<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:

Kelly Brooks, Forum Coordinator

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