



## Leadership in Health Policy Mentors – 2021-2022



**Carolyn Clancy, MD, MACP** [Carolyn.Clancy@va.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Clancy@va.gov)

Dr. Clancy serves as the Deputy Under Secretary for Health (DUSH) for Discovery, Education & Affiliate Networks (DEAN), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), effective July 22, 2018. The Office of the DEAN fosters collaboration and knowledge transfer with facility-based educators, researchers and clinicians within VA, and between VA and its affiliates.

Prior to her current position, she served as the VHA Executive in Charge, with the authority to perform the functions and duties of the Under Secretary for Health. As the Executive in Charge, Dr. Clancy directed a health care system with an annual budget of approximately \$68 billion, overseeing the delivery of care to more than 9 million enrolled Veterans. Previously, she served as the Interim Under Secretary for Health from 2014-2015. Dr. Clancy also served as the VHA DUSH for Organizational Excellence, overseeing VHA's performance, quality, safety, risk management, systems engineering, auditing, oversight, ethics and accreditation programs, as well as ten years as the Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

She is a highly experienced and nationally recognized physician executive. Dr. Clancy is a general internist and health services researcher, a graduate of Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She holds an academic appointment at George Washington University's School of Medicine and serves as Senior Associate Editor, Health Services Research Journal. She has contributed to eight academic textbooks and authored, co-authored and provided invited commentary in more than 225 scholarly journal articles. She served as member of the National Quality Forum's Board of Directors, Chair of the AQA Alliance and served on the Board of Governors for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and was presented with the 2014 Quality Champion Award from the National Committee for Quality Assurance. She was also named as an Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and was selected as the 2015 Outstanding Federal Executive of the Year by Disabled American Veterans. In 2018, she was selected as one of the Top 50 Physician Executives by Modern Healthcare, and in 2019, she was identified as one of the 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives by Modern Healthcare. (Mentees: Tony Davis-Maxwell, Evan Manning)



**John Goodson, MD** [JGOODSON1@MGH.Harvard.edu](mailto:JGOODSON1@MGH.Harvard.edu)

John Goodson is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a primary care internist at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Goodson practices and teaches both inpatient and outpatient medicine. In 2000, he founded the John D. Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation at MGH. He has a lifelong interest in the education of primary care physicians and directs Harvard CME courses for both primary care physicians and non-

primary care specialists who want to reconnect with GIM.

Dr Goodson wrote and then Co-Directed the Massachusetts Constitutional Amendment Campaign (2004-2006). This advocacy contributed to the expansion of health care access in Massachusetts in 2006, the model for the 2010 AHA. Dr. Goodson then shifted to focus on building a robust primary care work force. His efforts involve practice innovation and payment reform. In 2015, with the sponsorship of SGIM, Dr Goodson founded a new professional organization, the Cognitive Care Alliance (CCA), which brought together professional society representatives from primary care medicine as well as other specialties focused on the delivery of cognitive services such as allergy, endocrinology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, infectious disease, and hematology. The CCA successfully lobbied on the Hill, with CMS staff, and with CMS leadership to enhance payments for the new and established outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) service codes that were implemented in 2021. Dr Goodson's research has used the Medicare public access physician payment files, CDC mortality figures, and NAMCS and MEPS data bases to demonstrate that the work completed by the cognitively oriented specialties is more intense and that the lower payments to some specialties has created a skewed national distribution. Currently, he is investigating the impact of the ACA on geographic health disparities and impact of continued distortions in the Medicare Fee Schedule. (Mentees: Elisabeth Askin, Erica Heiman).

**P. Preston Reynolds, M.D, PhD, MACP** [PPR8Q@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu](mailto:PPR8Q@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu)



Preston Reynolds is Professor of Medicine with tenure at the University of Virginia. She is nationally recognized as an expert on medical professionalism, global human rights, and the history of African Americans in the health professions. Her books and articles focus on the history of race discrimination in healthcare and the racial integration of hospitals in the US, reform of medical education and healthcare through a renewed commitment to medical professionalism, and the history and impact of federal programs designed to

expand generalist physician, physician assistant, and dental training throughout the country. She has lectured both in the US and abroad on various topics based on her historical research and leadership roles in promoting medical professionalism and global human rights.

She is founder of the SGIM Interest Group on Global Health and Human Rights. Preston has been involved in health policy since her days as national president of the American Medical Student Association. She served as Branch Chief of Primary Care Medical Education with responsibility for the \$90 million Title VII Training Program which was the largest grant portfolio in the Health Resources and

Services Administration. After leaving the federal government, Preston edited a theme issue of *Academic Medicine* (Nov 2008) that was devoted to the history and impact of the Title VII programs. She also served on the ACP's Health and Public Policy Committee during development and passage of the Affordable Care Act, and worked with the Senate HELP committee staff in drafting language to reauthorize the Title VII Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry program. Her expertise of federal programs in diversity and inclusion as well as health professions education made her suited to direct the Primary Care Organization's Consortium for 10 years which brought together leaders of national primary care and health professions education organizations in collaboration with federal government staff to design and discuss collaborative strategies to maximize the impact and future of primary care in the United States. (Mentees: Khaalisha Ajala, Divya Venkat)



**Eugene Rich, M.D.** [ERich@Mathematica-Mpr.com](mailto:ERich@Mathematica-Mpr.com)

Dr. Gene Rich is Senior Fellow in Mathematica's DC office. A general-internist health policy researcher, he has a career long focus on the influence of the policy, payment, and practice environment on health professionals' decision making, including policies relevant to improving primary medical care. In addition to his expertise in health services and health policy research, he has deep experience with academic and private practice leadership, such as medicine department chair (Creighton University). Since joining Mathematica in 2010, Gene has led numerous relevant projects, including directing AHRQ's

Coordinating Center for Comparative Health System Performance which has identified and characterized US integrated delivery systems. For the Alternative Payment Model (APM) Program Analysis Contract with CMS he leads the review and analysis of various proposals to reform Medicare payments to clinicians. He has been integrally involved in a variety of policy research efforts to guide the transformation of primary care practice. For example, in the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) and Primary Care First (PCF) Medicare APM evaluations he oversees work using administrative data to describe primary care practice features and their relation to variations in low value care and overall spending. He has also been involved in a variety projects relevant to expanding the primary care clinician workforce. The author of more than 160 peer-reviewed publications, past recognition of his work includes Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship working on physician payment reform with the House Committee on Ways and Means. He is a past President of SGIM. (Mentees: Amir Meiri, Kathleen Pollard)



**Mark D. Schwartz, MD, MPH** [Mark.Schwartz@nyulangone.org](mailto:Mark.Schwartz@nyulangone.org)

Dr. Schwartz's research focuses on the interface of health services research, primary care practice transformation, and health policy. He leads a VA research team conducting epidemiologic studies of novel predictors of Type 2 diabetes among veterans. He leads a NIDDK-funded R18 randomized trial of a community health worker intervention to prevent diabetes among those with prediabetes at VA NY Harbor and Bellevue Hospitals. He is also Co-PI of an HRSA-funded project to transform primary care practice at Bellevue Hospital with a team training intervention. He recently led a VA-funded project; PROVE (Program of Research on Outcomes of VA Education), a controlled trial of panel management support and clinical microsystem education to improve outcomes among veterans with hypertension and smoking. And he was recently Co-PI of an AMA-funded project to integrate health system science education into the medical school curriculum at NYU School of Medicine.

Dr. Schwartz has 20+ years of educational leadership, having led NYU School of Medicine's General Internal Medicine Fellowship Program since 1995. He directed NYU's NIH Clinical Research Training Program and founded its Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation Program. He directed the CDC-funded Fellowship in Medicine and Public Health Research. He was founding Director of the Translational Research Education and Careers core in NYU's Clinical Translational Science Institute. He has been PI of three HRSA-funded Faculty Development Programs in Primary Care grants. He is Co-PI of an AHRQ-funded T32 fellowship in Population Health Science and is Program Director of a HRSA-funded T32 in Primary Care Research. He has successfully mentored numerous faculty, fellows, residents and students. (Mentees: Koushik Kasanagottu, Leslie Suen)



**Harry P. Selker, MD, MSPH** [HSelker@tuftsmedicalcenter.org](mailto:HSelker@tuftsmedicalcenter.org)

Dr. Harry P. Selker is Dean of Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and Executive Director of the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies at Tufts Medical Center. As Dean, he provides leadership for programs and infrastructure that support clinical and translational research at the Tufts University schools and affiliated hospitals, and other academic, community-based, and industry CTSI partners. He practices medicine at Tufts Medical Center.

Dr. Selker's research focuses on the development of treatment strategies, decision aids, and systems aimed at improving medical care. He is known for his studies of the factors influencing emergency cardiac care and for development of "clinical predictive instruments," mathematical models that are used as decision aids. They provide emergency physicians and paramedics with predictions for their patients' likely cardiac diagnoses and outcomes for real-time use in clinical care. This has included conduct of multiple large national clinical effectiveness trials that have demonstrated better treatment and clinical outcomes for patients with acute coronary syndromes. Additionally, Dr. Selker has done research to advance clinical study design, execution, issues around informed consent, data analysis,

mathematical predictive modeling of medical outcomes, and comparative effectiveness research.

Dr. Selker has contributed to health services and health policy research, with a focus on translational research that impacts public health. He has provided advice about healthcare delivery and medical research to policymakers, including the House and Senate authors of the Affordable Care Act. He is author of the book, *The Affordable Care Act as a National Experiment: Health Policy Innovations and Lessons*, now in its second edition. Dr. Selker has served as President of the Society of General Internal Medicine, the Society for Clinical and Translational Science, the Association for Clinical Research Training, and the Association for Clinical and Translational Science, and is currently Chair of the Clinical Research Forum. (Mentees: Kathryn Guinn, Ayan Nasir)



**Laura Sessums, JD, MD** [sessula@gmail.com](mailto:sessula@gmail.com)

Laura Sessums is the former Chief Care Transformation Medical Director at Anthem, where she focused on commercial value-based care programs, including primary care, ACOs, and episode-based payment models. Previously, she was the Director of the Division of Advanced Primary Care at the CMS Innovation Center (CMMI). At CMMI, she developed and launched the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+), America's largest multi-payer initiative to improve primary care. Until it ended in 2016, she ran the CPC initiative, an early CMMI multi-payer model to transform primary care payment and care delivery. Previously, she worked in academic medicine as a clinician-educator, mostly at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (as a civilian), where she served as the Chief of the General Medicine Section. Her professional activities have been in the areas of health care policy and advocacy, medical education, senior medical administrative leadership, and scholarship at the intersection of law and medicine. Her research has focused on primary care, particularly ethical and legal domains. She is a practicing general internist and a former lawyer. (Mentees: Robert Doolan, Apoorva Ram)



**Thomas Staiger, MD** [staiger@uw.edu](mailto:staiger@uw.edu)

Dr. Thomas O. Staiger is a Professor in the University of Washington School of Medicine's Division of General Internal Medicine. He has been the Medical Director of the University of Washington Medical Center since 2008. He has extensive experience in operational quality improvement. He is active in the Society of General Internal Medicine and is past chair of the society's Health Policy and Clinical Practice Committees. His academic interests include evaluating the role of anticipatory systems in improving safety in healthcare, the diagnostic evaluation of low back pain, promoting scholarship in quality improvement and educating physicians regarding leadership and quality improvement. (Mentees: Afifah Khan, Annie Syed)