

Board Member Profiles



Walter 'Buzz' Stewart
PhD, MPH

Governing Board Chair
2011-2012

Dr. Walter Stewart is Associate Chief Research Officer for the Geisinger Health System, Director of the Geisinger Center for Health Research, and Chair of the HMO Research Network Board of Governors (2011-2012).

He has extensive experience in epidemiology and health services research. The Center, which Dr. Stewart started in 2003, serves as a Research and Development (R & D) division and established collaborative ties to Geisinger's Innovation Team, Clinical Operations, the Geisinger Health Plan, and Geisinger Ventures. Dr. Stewart's current research interests are focused on developing and testing scalable methods for translating clinical practice guidelines to point of encounter expert clinical decision support and the development and testing of system level solutions for re-engineering care processes.

Prior to coming to Geisinger, Dr. Stewart was: a full-time faculty member of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology (1983-1995), where he maintains an adjunct professor position; Vice President of Research and Development (1998-2002) and founder and Director of the Center for Work & Health at AdvancePCS (2000-2002); and co-founder and President of Innovative Medical Research (1992-1998) a population based clinical trials and survey research company that was later acquired by AdvancePCS. Dr. Stewart earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Riverside and his master's degree in public health from the University of California at Los Angeles. He received his PhD in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins.



John F Steiner
MD, MPH

Governing Board Vice-Chair
2011-2012

Dr. John Steiner has been the Senior Director of the Institute for Health Research at Kaiser Permanente Colorado since November, 2008. He is Chair of the HMORN Asset Stewardship Committee and Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors (2011-2012).

Dr. Steiner also serves as Chair (2007-2011) of the Health Systems Research scientific review group for the AHRQ, as Chair of the steering committee and interim director of the Kaiser Permanente-funded Center for Effectiveness and Safety Research (CESR), and as research advisor to the Kaiser Permanente National Diversity Council. In addition, he is also a Professor of General Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver.

Dr. Steiner received his BA degree from Yale University, his MD at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, his internal medicine training at the University of Colorado, and his MPH degree from the University of Washington. From 1987-2008 he was on the full-time faculty of the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. In 2000 he established the Colorado Health Outcomes Program in the School of Medicine, which grew from 5 to 60 investigators and staff by 2008. In 2005 he received the Florence R. Sabin Award at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Commencement. Dr. Steiner is the author or co-author of over 140 peer-reviewed publications that reflect his research interests in access to care, health disparities, prevention of cardiovascular disease, treatment adherence, research training, and care of complex patients.



Karen Coleman
PhD

Dr. Karen J. Coleman is a Research Scientist in the Research and Evaluation department of Kaiser Permanente Southern California (KPSC).

She holds a B.S. in Zoology from Washington State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Biopsychology from the University of Georgia. She also completed a three year post-doctoral fellowship in behavioral medicine studying the treatment of child obesity.

Before joining KPSC, she was an Associate Professor of Public Health at San Diego State University and began her independent work as an Assistant Professor of Health Psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Her main areas of focus are health disparities in chronic disease, physical activity promotion and measurement, obesity and diabetes prevention in Hispanic communities, gastric bypass surgical outcomes, child obesity treatment and prevention, program evaluation research, and community-based participatory research.



Robert L Davis
MD, MPH

Dr. Robert L. Davis is the Director and Senior Investigator of the Center for Health Research - Southeast (CHR -SE), Kaiser Permanente Georgia

Dr. Davis is also an Affiliate Professor of Epidemiology and Health Services of the University of Washington School of Public Health, and an Affiliate Professor of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health.

Dr. Davis currently leads a team of investigators and staff in a portfolio of funded studies involving pharmacogenomics, pharmacoepidemiology and clinical trials of vaccines and pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Davis was originally at the University of Washington and Group Health Cooperative and was one of the lead investigators for the CDC Vaccine Safety Datalink Project. At the University of Washington, Dr. Davis also co-led their NRSA Fellowship program. Prior to joining Kaiser Permanent, Dr. Davis was recruited to CDC to lead their CDC's Immunizations Safety Office. He has published more than 116 articles and 8 book chapters, serves as a reviewer for 14 journals, including JAMA and NEJM, and has received numerous awards for his outstanding scientific work and publications.

Dr. Davis's current research focuses on genetic variation and modulation of response to vaccines, including smallpox vaccine, and response to oral hypoglycemics and statins.



Mary L Durham
PhD

Dr. Durham is Vice President of Research for Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Director of The Center for Health Research - Northwest, Hawaii, and Southeast.

In addition to her leadership roles, Dr. Durham conducts her own NIH-funded research as a Senior Investigator on workplace health and translational research. Dr. Durham is also the Associate Director of the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI), one of the first 12 NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards. In a unique partnership with Oregon Health & Science University, CHR's role in OCTRI contributes to the science of translating research to practice and developing strong interactions between discovery and dissemination.

In tandem with her distinguished health research career, Dr. Durham has worked with state and federal lawmakers in crafting policy-level decisions across a wide range of topics, such as privacy, mental health law, genetics, research, and human subjects protection. She was a Commissioner for the State of Oregon's Senate Commission for Health Care Access and Affordability. She has had diverse roles, from providing expert testimony to the President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission to consulting to the World Health Organization. Dr. Durham has served on the boards of the Association for Health Services Research (Academy Health), Group Health Community Foundation, and Kaiser Permanente Health Care Alternatives.



Thomas Elliott
MD

Dr. Elliott is the executive director of the Essentia Institute of Rural Health (EIRH). He represents and leads the research enterprise that engages Essentia Health providers and its patients and communities in educational and research activities.

Dr. Elliott has a successful record in community-based research projects, leading research teams, and building research programs, such as EIRH. He served as chief of education and research at SMDC Health System for 20 years. Some of his most pertinent research experiences and studies in rural health research and dissemination include the Lake Superior Rural Cancer Care Project, a cluster randomized trial of communities conducted across rural Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan testing interventions to improve rural providers' cancer care knowledge, competencies, and practice behaviors, and their cancer patients' outcomes; and Minnesota Cancer Pain Project, a cluster randomized trial of communities conducted across Minnesota testing interventions to improve providers' knowledge, competencies and practice behaviors, and their cancer patients' pain outcomes. Dr. Elliott has served on many NCI study sections, both as member and chair. He has published more than 125 scholarly works.

In addition to research activities, Dr. Elliott practiced medical oncology/hematology for 25 years and served as medical director of the SMDC Hospice and Palliative Care Program and medical director of the SMDC Pain Management program.



Alan Go
MD

Dr. Alan Go is Acting Director of Kaiser Permanente Northern California's Division of Research, Director of the Comprehensive Clinical Research Unit, and an Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine.

Dr. Go served as Chair of the NIH Health Services Organization and Delivery Study Section from 2004-2006, which addresses health services research and clinical epidemiology. He is also a member of the American Heart Association Statistics and Stroke Statistics Committee and the American College of Chest Physician's 8th Consensus Conference on Antithrombotic Therapy.

Dr. Go is PI or Co-PI for multiple NIH-sponsored single and multi-center studies in the areas of cardiovascular and renal disease. Dr. Go brings extensive experience as a cardiovascular epidemiologist and health care effectiveness and clinical trial researcher with active investigations in atrial fibrillation and stroke; atherosclerotic coronary heart disease; chronic heart failure; and vascular and other complications of renal disease. Dr. Go also has both methodological expertise and experience in the use of health plan automated databases to conduct longitudinal studies in epidemiology, health services and outcomes research. Finally, Dr. Go serves as Co-PI of the HMORN CERT and the HMORN DEcIDE Network efforts and PI of the CVRN.



Margaret J Gunter
PhD

Dr. Margaret J. (Maggie) Gunter is President and Executive Director of the LCF Research of Lovelace Health Systems.

LCF Research is a non-profit health research institute based in Albuquerque, New Mexico that has a research affiliation with Lovelace Health Systems. Dr. Gunter is a health services researcher with extensive experience in disease management and outcomes research, including the design and evaluation of interventions designed to translate evidence into more effective and efficient practice and improved outcomes.

In 2004, Dr. Gunter's interest in health innovations led to a large AHRQ grant to build and evaluate the New Mexico Health Information Collaborative (NMHIC), a statewide health information exchange. After serving as PI for the AHRQ grant, Dr. Gunter is currently Co-Project Lead for one of only 9 major contracts awarded nationally by DHHS to help build and test the Nationwide Health Information Network.



Jerry Gurwitz
MD

Dr. Jerry H. Gurwitz is Executive Director of the Meyers Primary Care Institute (MPCI), a joint initiative of Fallon Community Health Plan, Fallon Clinic, and the University of Massachusetts Medical School, focused on population health research and improving the health of communities.

Dr. Gurwitz holds the Dr. John Meyers Professorship in Primary Care Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he is Chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He has been the PI of several grants from the AHRQ focused on improving medication safety. He also serves as co-director of the NHLBI-funded HMORN CVRN, a national initiative that leverages the collective cardiovascular expertise, diverse community-based study populations, and rich electronic data systems within health plans in the HMORN to better study the epidemiology, prevention, management and outcomes of cardiovascular diseases.

Dr. Gurwitz has published numerous original articles, reviews, commentaries, and book chapters on the optimal use of drug therapy in elderly patients. He has been the recipient of the William B. Abrams Award in Geriatric Clinical Pharmacology from the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, the George F. Archambault Award from the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, and the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award for Research from the National Safety Foundation. Dr. Gurwitz has mentored over 25 trainees, many of whom have gone on to be NIH, AHRQ, or RWJF-funded clinical and health services researchers.



Michael Horberg
MD, MAS

Michael Alan Horberg, MD, MAS, FACP, FIDSA is Executive Director Research of Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (MAPMG) and the director of the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Research Institute (MAPRI). In that role, he has responsibility for all research efforts in Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic, including clinical trials. He is also director of HIV/AIDS for Kaiser Permanente.

Dr. Horberg has been appointed to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), and co-chairs the Access to Care and Improved Outcomes Committee of PACHA. Dr. Horberg is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Disease Society of America, and he presently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Disease Society of America. He has co-chaired the NCQA/AMA/HRSA/IDSA sponsored Expert Panel on HIV-related provider performance measures. He is Assistant Clinical Professor at Stanford University Medical School. Dr. Horberg is past-president of the national Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. His HIV research interests are health service outcomes for HIV-infected patients (including HIV quality measures and care improvement, and determinants of optimized multidisciplinary care for maximized HIV outcomes), medication adherence issues in these patients, and epidemiology of the disease.

He graduated from Boston University's College of Liberal Arts and School of Medicine (with honors of Summa cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa) and completed his internal medicine residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago (University of Chicago affiliate). He received his Master of Advanced Studies (Clinical Research) from University of California San Francisco.



Mark C Hornbrook
PhD

Dr. Mark Hornbrook is Chief Scientist at The Center for Health Research (TCHR), Kaiser Permanente and leads TCHR's overall scientific program, which has a 45-year history of conducting cutting-edge health research.

Dr. Hornbrook is a health economist with extensive experience collecting, managing, and analyzing large databases. He is a recognized expert in cost and utilization analysis, illness episode grouping methods, economic evaluation methods, patient classification methods, health status measurement, predictive modeling, and health-based remuneration systems.

Dr. Hornbrook is the Principal Investigator of the Coordinating Center for the CERT, a high-profile program across 14 sites sponsored by the AHRQ. He is Principal Investigator for a CDC-funded study of maternal morbidity rates. Dr. Hornbrook currently serves as Co-Principal Investigator of the HMORN CRN. He is Principal Investigator for an NCI-funded study on the medical care costs of cancer for Medicare beneficiaries, and an NCI-funded examination of a mechanism for electronic transmission of data from the VDW of the CRN to the geographically co-existing central cancer registry of the SEER Program. He serves as a Co-Investigator on an NCI-funded study of long-term survivors of colorectal cancer with and without intestinal stomas. He is a site Principal Investigator for the NCI-funded CanCORS Consortium. He is a site investigator for the NCI-funded CRN GO Grant that supports the development of a reliable and complete VDW including complete treatment and outcomes variables for the purpose of conducting comparative effectiveness research. He is a member of the Oregon Health & Science University's (OHSU) Cancer Institute.

Dr. Hornbrook was recently appointed to a three-year term on the U.S. National Committee for Vital and Health Statistics, and was named a Fellow in the Association for Health Services Research (AcademyHealth) in 1996.



Rachelle Kaye
PhD

Dr. Rachelle Kaye is the Director of the Maccabi Institute for Health Services Research and the Deputy Director of the Division of Planning and Finance in Maccabi Healthcare Services in Israel.

Dr. Kaye has been an active professional in the area of health care management and research for over 35 years, in the United States, Israel and more recently, in Europe. Her areas of expertise and experience, in on-hands management as well as research include: Health Care Policy and Planning, Health Care Financing, Co-payments, Supplementary Insurance, Long Term Care Insurance, Provider Reimbursement, Purchaser-Provider Negotiations, Evaluation of Medical Services, Economic Accountability, Health Care Reform, Strategic Long Range Planning, and E-health (electronic health records, health management information systems and telemedicine).

Dr. Kaye is a frequently invited lecturer at international and European forums and conferences, most recently in the areas of Long Term Care, chronic disease management, telemedicine and the use of information and communication technology for evidence based health plan management as well as improving the quality of patient care.



Eric B Larson
MD, MPH

Dr. Eric Larson is Executive Director of the Group Health Research Institute and Chair (2009-2010) of the HMO Research Network Board of Governors.

A graduate of Harvard Medical School, he trained in internal medicine at Beth Israel Hospital, in Boston, completed a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars and MPH program at the University of Washington, and then served as Chief Resident of University Hospital in Seattle. He served as Medical Director of University of Washington Medical Center and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs from 1989-2002.

Dr. Larson's research spans a range of general medicine topics and has focused on aging and dementia, including a long running study of aging and cognitive change set in Group Health Cooperative - The University of Washington / Group Health Alzheimer's Disease Patient Registry/Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) Study.

He has served as President of the Society of General Internal Medicine, Chair of the OTA/DHHS Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders and was Chair of the Board of Regents (2004-05), American College of Physicians. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine.



Howard 'Hal' Luft
PhD

Harold S. Luft, PhD, is Director of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute (PAMFRI). He also is Caldwell B. Esselstyn Professor Emeritus of Health Policy and Health Economics in the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco and was Director there from 1993 through 2007.

He has been involved in postdoctoral training for over 30 years, serving as co-director or associate director for three training programs sponsored jointly by UCSF and UC Berkeley, and continues mentoring fellows at PAMFRI.

He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and served six years on the IOM Council. He chaired and was a member of the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (now the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality). He served on the board of AcademyHealth for 10 years and served as senior associate editor and then co-editor of the journal *Health Services Research* between 1997 and 2006.

His research has covered a wide range of areas, including medical care utilization, health maintenance organizations, hospital market competition, volume, quality and outcomes of hospital care, risk assessment and risk adjustment, and health care market reform. He has authored or co-authored over 200 articles in scientific journals and has five books, including *Total Cure: The Antidote to the Health Care Crisis*, Harvard University Press, October 2008.

He received AB, MA, and PhD degrees in economics from Harvard University.



Andrew F Nelson
MPH

Andrew F. Nelson is Executive Director of the HealthPartners Research Foundation and Vice President of HealthPartners. Mr. Nelson has provided leadership for this nonprofit, medical/health care research organization since 1990. He also serves as a corporate officer for HealthPartners, Inc. HealthPartners is an integrated health delivery system servicing over one-million people in Minnesota. HealthPartners Research Foundation conducts over two hundred laboratory, clinical and health services research projects annually, through 120 full-time staff, 26 full-time career researchers, joined by more than 45 clinical researchers conducting a broad array of basic, clinical, and health services research.

Prior to the HealthPartners Research Foundation position, he was executive director of the Day Community Program at the University of Minnesota's day-treatment program for emotionally and behaviorally disturbed adolescents. He has led or participated in numerous grants and contracts, authored or contributed to many publications and presentations.

Mr. Nelson is a founding member of the HMO Research Network, 16 research organizations providing public domain research involving over 12 million people served by our sponsored health care delivery organizations. He serves on a wide range of professional and community Boards.



Lois Lamerato
PhD

Lois Lamerato is a senior epidemiologist at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. She has been involved with the Cancer Research Network since its inception and serves as the site data PI for Henry Ford and as a member of the Scientific Data Resources Committee. She is the lead for the VDW Tumor Workgroup.

Dr. Lamerato has an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in Health Policy Studies. She completed her master's degree in Community Medicine and doctoral degree in Sociology at Wayne State University. Her area of expertise is utilization of health system administrative databases for research. She has worked on numerous studies using extant data sources to characterize the patterns and outcomes of care for patients with cancer and other illnesses. She is an investigator and Chair of the Methods and Operations Committee for the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial, a study in its 15th year of operation.

In addition to research, Dr. Lamerato teaches Medical Sociology, Healthcare Administration, Healthcare Finance and Medical Information Systems at the University of Michigan.



Richard Platt
MD MSc

Dr. Rich Platt is Professor and Chair of the Harvard Medical School Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

Dr. Platt is an internist trained in infectious diseases and epidemiology. His research focuses on developing multi-institution automated record linkage systems for use in pharmacoepidemiology, and for population based surveillance, reporting, and control of both hospital and community acquired infections, including bioterrorism events. He is Principal Investigator of the FDA's Mini-Sentinel program, a CDC sponsored Center of Excellence in Public Health Informatics, a CDC Prevention Epicenter, the AHRQ sponsored HMORN CERT, the AHRQ HMORN CERT Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness center (DECIDE), an FDA post-marketing surveillance center, an NIH Modeling Infectious Disease Agent Study (MIDAS Center), and is Co-Principal Investigator of a CDC Vaccine Safety Datalink site (VSD).

Dr. Platt is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care, and of the Association of American Medical College's Advisory Panel on Research. He has chaired the NIH Epidemiology and Disease Control study section, the FDA's Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee, the executive committee of the HMO Research Network, and the steering committee of the CDC's Office of Managed Care Partnerships.

Dr. Platt received his MD from Harvard Medical School, and a master's degree in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health.



Alan B Stevens
PhD

Dr. Stevens holds the Vernon D. Holleman-Lewis M. Rampy Centennial Chair in Gerontology at Scott & White Healthcare and is a Professor of Medicine at the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center.

He directs the Scott & White Program on Aging and Care which develops and tests support services and clinical interventions for older adults, specifically those with Alzheimer's and other related dementias, and their caregivers.

Dr. Alan Stevens is Director for Scientific Investigator Development at Scott & White Healthcare. He facilitates clinical and translational research at Scott & White via training programs for our staff and collaborations with similar institutions across the US.

Dr. Stevens completed his graduate training at the University of New Orleans, earning a Masters degree and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Applied Developmental Psychology.



Humberto Vidaillet
MD

Dr. Humberto Vidaillet is the Director of Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation (MCRF) and Director of Medical Research for the Marshfield Clinic System. He is also member of the Executive Committee of the Marshfield Clinic.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma Medical School, he completed his residency training in internal medicine at Mayo Clinic and completed a cardiology/electrophysiology fellowship at Duke University Medical Center.

Dr. Vidaillet joined the Cardiology Department at Marshfield Clinic in 1987 and continues to see patients part-time. His research has focused on investigational drugs and devices in clinical trials sponsored by industry and government as well as on the epidemiology and clinical significance of cardiac arrhythmias in general populations using the Marshfield Epidemiologic Study Area (MESA). He is a scientist reviewer for several medical journals and holds teaching appointments as clinical professor of medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and consulting professor of medicine at the University of Health Sciences in Medellin, Colombia, and the University of Chile School of Medicine in Santiago. He serves on the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Board and Authority and as Associate Director for the Institute of Clinical and Translational Research.