



# Kidney Innovation Summit

Transforming the Journey from Risk to Treatment

February 9-10, 2017

Booz Allen Hamilton Innovation Center  
Washington, DC



# WELCOME

The **Department of Veterans Affairs**, the **VA Center for Innovation**, and the **American Society of Nephrology** are pleased to host the **Kidney Innovation Summit**, where we are joining 150 attendees from Federal agencies, non-profits, industry and patient advocacy groups to explore innovation opportunities in chronic kidney disease, renal replacement therapy (dialysis), and transplant.



## ABOUT THE CENTER

Booz Allen's Innovation Center is a free-flowing collaborative space where the innovation community can converge to inspire ideas, build new technologies, grow their networks, and work together to solve the toughest problems of today and the future.

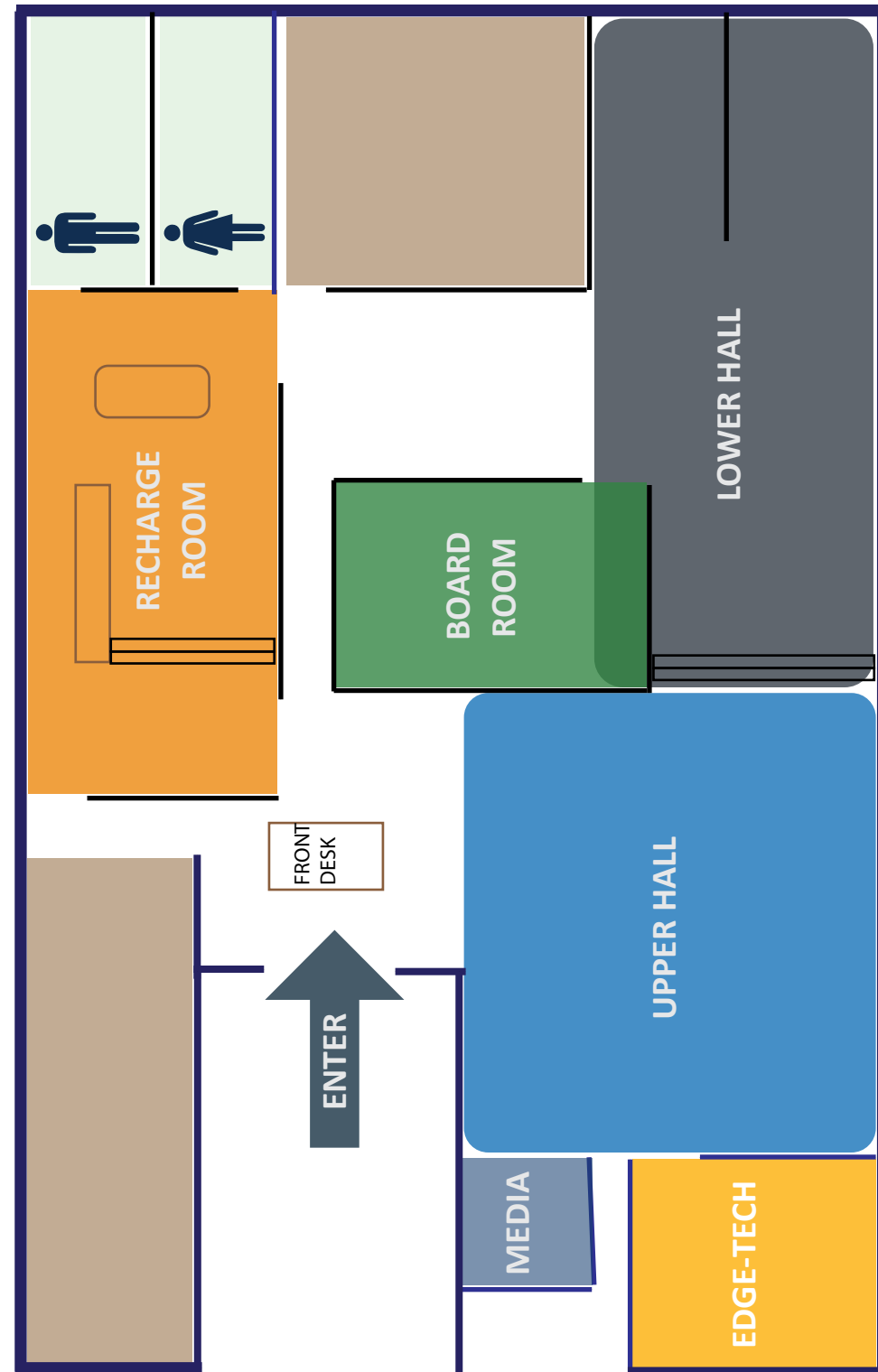
[www.boozallen.com/innovationcenter](http://www.boozallen.com/innovationcenter)

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conference website:

[kidneydiseaseinnov.wixsite.com/ation](http://kidneydiseaseinnov.wixsite.com/ation)

tell us about your **#VAKidneyInnovation**



# DAY ONE

February 9, 2017 (8:00AM-5:30PM)

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**8:00-8:30 CHECK-IN, FRONT DESK**

Coffee and snacks, *Recharge Room*

## **8:30AM WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS, LOWER HALL**

- » **Richard Stone, MD**  
Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health,  
US Department of Veterans Affairs
- » **Eleanor Lederer, MD, FASN**  
President, American Society of Nephrology
- » **Kurt Scherer, MBA**  
Director, Booz Allen Hamilton Innovation Center
- » **Matthew Collier, MPA**  
Executive Director, VA Strategic Partnerships
- » **Patrick Littlefield, PhD**  
Executive Director, VA Center for Innovation
- » **Susan T. Crowley, MD, FASN**  
VHA National Program Director for Kidney Disease; Chief, Renal Section  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System; Professor of Medicine, Yale University
- » **Jarah Meador, PhD**  
Innovation Sourcing Lead, VA Center for Innovation

## CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE SESSION 9:30-11:45AM

### **9:30-10:00AM**

#### **SESSION CHAIR TOPIC INTRODUCTION, LOWER HALL**

- » **Sharon Moe, MD, FASN**  
Director of Nephrology and Stuart A. Kleit Professor of Medicine,  
Indiana University; Nephrology Chief, Roudebush VA

#### **PATIENT PRESENTATIONS**

- » **2 patients with Carlos E. Palant, MD**

### **10:00-10:45AM LIGHTNING TALKS**

- » **Michael J. Choi, MD, FNKF**  
President, National Kidney Foundation; Clinical Director  
of Nephrology, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
• **TACKLEing Kidney Disease Up Front: A Trial of Early CKD  
Detection**
- » **Carmen A. Peralta, MD, MAS**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Nephrology; Co-Founder  
and Executive Director, Kidney Health Research Collaborative; University  
of California San Francisco and San Francisco VA Medical Center  
• **VA Electronic Health Record to Implement CKD Screening  
Trial**
- » **Michelle M. Estrella, MD, MHS**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Nephrology Core  
Investigator, Kidney Health Research Collaborative; University of  
California San Francisco and San Francisco VA Medical Center  
• **Urine Biomarkers of Kidney Injury: An Opportunity to  
Improve Kidney Health**
- » **Ziyad Al-Aly, MD, FASN**  
Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Education;  
Saint Louis VA Health Care System  
• **Big Data, Machine Learning and Kidney Disease**
- » **Donald Wesson, MD, MBA, FACP, FASN**  
Chief Academic Officer of Baylor Scott & White; Vice-Dean, Temple  
Campus Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine  
• **Kidney Protection with Fruits and Vegetables: Implications  
for Population health**
- » **R. Brooks Robey, MD, FASN**  
Associate Chief of Staff for Research & Development, Staff Physician  
& Past Founding Chief, Section of Nephrology & Hypertension  
White River Junction VA Medical Center; Associate Professor  
of Medicine and of Medical Education, Co-Director, Renal  
Physiology Curriculum, Faculty, Program in Experimental and  
Molecular Medicine, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth  
• **VA MobileKidney App – A Mobile Educational and Clinical  
Engagement Tool for Veterans with CKD and Their Providers**

#### **Q&A SESSION**

## 10:45-11:45AM CKD PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator:

- » **Sharon Moe, MD, FASN**

Panelists:

- » **Areef Ishani, MD, MS**  
Director, Primary and Specialty Care Service Line  
Minneapolis VA Health Care System; Professor  
of Medicine, University of Minnesota
- » **Christopher Nielson, MD, MPH**  
Director Predictive Analytics, VA; Professor of Medicine,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine
- » **Deidra C. Crews, MD, ScM, FASN, FACP**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Nephrology  
Associate Vice Chair for Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Medicine  
Director, Doctoral Diversity Program,  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- » **Rajiv Saran, MBBS, DTCD, MD, MRCP, MS**  
Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology, Florence  
E Bingham Research Professor of Nephrology  
University of Michigan; Director, United States Renal Data System  
Coordinating Center, UM-Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center
- » **Michael G. Shlipak, MD, MPH**  
Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine  
San Francisco VA Medical Center; Co-Founder and Scientific Director,  
Kidney Health Research Collaborative;  
Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
UC San Francisco
- » **Andrew S. Narva, MD, FASN**  
Director, National Kidney Disease Education Program  
NIDDK, National Institutes of Health

- » **Patient panelist**

## 11:45AM-1:15PM LUNCH, RECHARGE ROOM

## 12:00-1:00PM TABLE TOP INNOVATION SHOWCASE,

UPPER HALL

- » **Andrew S. Narva, MD, FASN**  
Director, National Kidney Disease Education Program  
NIDDK, National Institutes of Health  
• **Facilitating Population Health for CKD through Health  
Information Technology**

## TABLE TOP INNOVATION SHOWCASE, CONT.

- » **Jim S. Strickland**  
President, FASTBioMedical  
• **FAST mGFR and PV Technology**
- » **Dori Schatell, MS**  
Executive Director, Medical Education Institute, Inc.  
• **My Life, My Dialysis Choice: A Lifestyle-based Online  
Decision Aid**
- » **James P. Halloran, MSN, RN, CNS, FAAN**  
Deputy Chief Consultant, Strategy and Planning, Population  
Health Service (10P4V), Patient Care Services  
• **Population Focused CKD Management: Applying a  
Continuum Approach**
- » **Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD**  
Professor of Medicine, Director, Kidney Research Institute;  
Co-Director, Center for Dialysis Innovation  
Joseph W. Eschbach MD Endowed Chair for Kidney Research; Dept.  
of Medicine, Div. of Nephrology, University of Washington  
• **Rehabilitation in Kidney Disease - a Promise Unfulfilled**
- » **Adriana M. Hung, MD, MPH**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University; Dialysis  
Medical Director, Nashville VA Medical Center (TVHS)  
• **Precision Medicine in CKD: Defining Heterogeneity**
- » **Dennis (Denny) M. Treu**  
Vice President and Senior Member, Technical Staff  
NxStage Medical, Inc.  
• **Innovation Through System Design**
- » **Rajiv Saran, MBBS, DTCD, MD, MRCP, MS**  
Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology, Florence  
E Bingham Research Professor of Nephrology, University of  
Michigan (UM); Director,USRDS (United States Renal Data System)  
Coordinating Center UM-Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center  
• **The VA Renal Information System (VA-REINS) – a National  
Resource toward Population Health Management for US  
Veterans**
- » **Klemens Meyer, MD**  
Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine  
Director of Dialysis Services, Tufts Medical Center  
Medical Director for Information Technology, Dialysis Clinic, Inc.  
• **Transforming Transitions of Care in Chronic Kidney Disease**

» **Joseph A. Knight, PhD, MBA**  
President & CEO of InnAVasc Medical

» **Shawn Gage, PA-C**  
Inventor & Founder of InnAVasc Medical  
Clinical Operations at Humacyte

• **Novel Vascular Access Graft for Dialysis Patients**

» **Morteza Ahmadi, PhD**  
Co-founder, CEO, Qidni Labs

• **Qidni-X1, an Implantable Renal Replacement Therapy**

» **William S. Moore, MD**  
Medical Director of Dialysis Unit, James Quillen VA Medical Center

» **TJ O'Neil, MD, FACP, FASN**  
Col USAF MC (Ret) Affiliate Nephrologist James Quillen VA Medical Center;  
Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, East Tennessee State University

• **Renal Disease Management Clinic of the Future**

## 12:00-1:00PM INNOVATION SHOWCASE, *BOARD ROOM*

» **Rachel Patzer, PhD, MPH**  
Director of Health Services Research, Emory Transplant Center;  
Assistant Professor, Emory University School of Medicine,  
Department of Surgery, Medicine and Epidemiology Emory University

• **iChoose Kidney: a Shared Decision Aid for Treatment Options**

» **Arvind Rajan**  
Co-founder and CEO, Cricket Health, Inc.

• **Hope from Cricket Health (ESRD Modality Choice and Condition Management Program)**

» **Devasmita Choudhury Dev, MD**  
Chief, Renal Section Salem VA Medical Center  
Associate Professor Medicine, University of Virginia,  
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

• **Understanding CKD- eKidney Game Apps that Fill Gaps**

» **Karen Sovern MSN, RN VHA-CM**  
Clinical Program Manager, VHA Office of Excellence  
Office of Reporting, Analytics, Performance Improvement and  
Deployment (RAPID) Inpatient Evaluation Center (IPEC)

• **VHA National Hemodialysis Dashboard: Monitoring and Improving Quality Care for Veterans**

» **Ashutosh Shukla, MD**  
Faculty in Nephrology, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans  
Health System; Assistant Professor, Director of Advanced  
CKD and Home Dialysis Program, University of Florida

• **Comprehensive Pre-Dialysis Education: An Underutilized Tool for Transition to ESRD, and its Potential in Improving Home Dialysis Rates**

## 12:00-1:00PM INNOVATION SHOWCASE, *EDGE-TECH*

» **Alan Perlman, MD**  
General nephrologist, Director, RENAL AID biorepository and  
Director, Diabetic Kidney Disease Center Rogosin Institute  
Weill Cornell Medical College

• **RENAL AID Biorepository**

» **David L. Cull, MD**  
Professor, Department of Surgery, University of South Carolina School  
of Medicine-Greenville; Vice President, Academic Development; Health  
Sciences Center/Greenville Health System Greenville, South Carolina

• **A Mobile App for Standardizing/Optimizing Upper Extremity Vascular Access Procedure Selection Based on the UCLA/RAND Appropriateness Method**

» **James Pittman**  
Assistant Vice-President, Transplant & Inpatient Dialysis Services, HCA

» **Sarah Taranto**  
Data Analytics Manager, UNOS  
• **'The Coordinator Will See You Now': Visual insight into the Kidney Transplant Waiting List**

» **Rajeev Rohatgi, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Stony Brook University,  
Renal Section Chief, Northport VA Medical Center  
• **Telenephrology and Renal Disease Identification by EMR: Methods to Enhance Access to Renal Care**

» **Prabir Roy-Chaudhury, MD, PhD**  
Professor of Medicine, Director, Division of Nephrology,  
Banner University Medical Center-Tucson  
Staff Nephrologist, Southern Arizona VA Health Care System,  
American Society of Nephrology Co-Chair, Kidney Health Initiative  
• **Dialysis Vascular Access: of Flow, Fistulae and Finance**

## 1:00-1:15 PM BREAK

## 1:15-1:45PM

### SESSION CHAIR TOPIC INTRODUCTION, LOWER HALL

#### » Klemens Meyer, MD

Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine  
Director of Dialysis Services, Tufts Medical Center  
Medical Director for Information Technology, Dialysis Clinic, Inc.

### PATIENT PRESENTATIONS

#### » 2 patients with Carlos E. Palant, MD

## 1:45-2:30PM LIGHTNING TALKS

#### » Tammy L. Sirich, MD

Staff Physician, VA Palo Alto; Instructor of Medicine, Stanford University

#### • Targeting Colon-Derived Uremic Toxins

#### » Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Chief, Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Public Health, University of California Irvine, School of Medicine; Staff Physician and Principal Investigator, VA Long Beach Healthcare System; Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology Dept. Epidemiology, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

#### • Conservative and Incremental Dialysis for Transition of Veterans to ESRD

#### » Michael J. Fischer, MD, MSPH

Staff Nephrologist, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital and Jesse Brown VAMC

#### • Stronger Together: Improving Support for Informal Caregivers of Veterans on Home Dialysis

#### » Arjun (AJ) Sinha, MD, MS

Acute, Chronic, and Self-Care Dialysis Medical, Director, Roudebush VA Medical Center; Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of Nephrology, Indiana University School of Medicine

#### • Self-Care Incenter Hemodialysis as Transition to Home

#### » Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD

Professor of Medicine, Univ of Washington; Director, Kidney Research Institute; Co-Director, Center for Dialysis Innovation

#### • Rehabilitation in Kidney Disease - a Promise Unfulfilled

#### » Mahesh Krishnan, MD, MPH, MBA, FASN

International Chief Medical Officer and Group Vice President Research and Development, DaVita Healthcare Partners

#### • Dialysis Data Standards, the Missing Link

## Q&A SESSION

## 2:30-3:15PM RRT PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator:

#### » Klemens Meyer, MD

Panelists:

#### » Susie Lew, MD

Professor of Medicine, George Washington University

#### » Kevin C. Abbott, MD, MPH

Program Officer, Director, Kidney and Urology Epidemiology, Division of Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases, NIDDK

#### » Prabir Roy-Chaudhury MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine, Director, Division of Nephrology, Banner University Medical Center-Tucson; Staff Nephrologist, Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, American Society of Nephrology Co-Chair, Kidney Health Initiative

#### » Carlos E. Palant, MD

Chief, Renal Section, Washington DC VA Medical Center; Professor of Medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine

#### » Paul M. Palevsky, MD

Chief, Renal Section, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System  
Professor of Medicine and Clinical & Translational Science, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

#### » Richard Knight, MBA

Vice President and Chair, American Association of Kidney Patients Public Policy Committee

#### » Patient Panelist

## 3:15-3:30PM BREAK

### 3:30-4:00PM

#### SESSION CHAIR TOPIC INTRODUCTION, LOWER HALL

» **Sandy Cupples, PhD, RN, FAAN**

National Director, Clinical Services, VA National Surgery Office, Veterans Health Administration

#### PATIENT PRESENTATIONS

» **2 patients with Carlos E. Palant, MD**

### 4:00-4:45PM LIGHTNING TALKS

» **Venkat Ramanathan, MD, FASN**

Director, Solid Organ Transplant program  
Michael E DeBakey VA, Houston, TX

• **TRANSPLANT TELE-MOVE Program**

» **James Pittman**

Assistant Vice-President, Transplant & Inpatient Dialysis Services, HCA

• **'The Coordinator Will See You Now': Visual Insight into the Kidney Transplant Waiting List**

» **Jon Friedman, MD**

Chief Medical Officer, Optum

• **Optimizing Comprehensive Kidney Care: Breaking Down The Silos**

» **Sharyn Kreitzer, LMSW**

Transplant Administrator, James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx NY

• **Increasing Access to Living Kidney Donation in VA: No Veteran Should Wait!**

» **Kim Gifford, MBA**

American Society of Transplant Surgeons; National Living Donor Assistance Center

• **Removing Disincentives to Living Organ Donation**

» **Renee Dupee, JD**

CMS ESRD Network Program Team Lead

• **Increasing Kidney Utilization and Donation after Circulatory Death**

#### Q&A SESSION

### 4:45-5:30PM TRANSPLANT PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator:

» **Sandy Cupples, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Panelists:

» **Robert W. Walsh**

Senior Advisor, Division of Transplantation Health Resources and Services Administration US Department of Health and Human Services

» **Ming Jack Po, MD, PhD**

Product Manager, Google Brain and Google Cloud

» **Krista Lentine, MD, PhD**

Professor of Medicine, Saint Louis University

» **Paul T. Conway**

President, American Association of Kidney Patients

» **Marie E. Le, MD, FACS**

James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

» **Macey L. Henderson, JD, PhD**

Instructor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

» **Henkie Tan, MD, PhD, FACS, FAST**

Associate Professor of Surgery, Kidney, Pancreas, Liver Transplantation-- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center/ VA Pittsburgh Health Care System; Surgical Director, Kidney Transplantation-- VA Pittsburgh Health Care System

### 5:30-5:45 PM CLOSING REMARKS

### 6:00-7:00PM RECEPTION, BLACKFINN DC, 1620 I ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20006

• **Hosted by American Society of Nephrology**

# DAY TWO

February 10th (8:00AM-3:00PM)

**8:00-8:30 CHECK-IN**, FRONT DESK

- Coffee and snacks, Recharge Room

**8:30-8:45 AM OVERVIEW OF DAY TWO**, LOWER HALL

**8:45- 9:45AM FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OVERVIEW**

» **Michael Burgio**, PhD

Scientific Program Manager, Office of Research and Development  
Department of Veterans Affairs

- **VA Merit Award Program: Funding Mechanisms & Opportunities**

» **Daniel Gossett**, PhD

Program Director, National Institute of Diabetes  
and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

- **NIH Funding for Kidney Innovations**

» **Rick Starrs**, MBA

Chief Executive Officer, National Association of  
Veterans' Research and Education Foundations

- **NAVREF: Promoting Partnerships to Improve Veterans' Health**

» **Thomas F. Klobucar**, PhD

Acting Director, Office of Rural Health, Veterans Health  
Administration, US Department of Veterans Affairs

» **Andrea Ippolito**

VA Innovators Network Lead, VA Center for Innovation

- **Overview of the VA Innovators Network to Help Support & Invest in Chronic Kidney Disease Innovation**

» **Jarah Meador**, PhD

Innovation Sourcing Lead, VACI

- **External Innovation Funding: Broad Agency Announcement**

**Q&A SESSION**

**9:45-10:45AM PARTICIPANT PITCH SESSION**

**10:45-11:00AM BREAK**

**11:00AM-12:00PM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**,  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

» moderator: *Don Wesson, MD*

- **Disparities in Kidney Disease**, lower hall

» moderator: *Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD*

- **ESRD Transitions and Alternative Models of RRT**, lower hall

» moderator: *Krista Lentine, MD, PhD*

- **Transplant**, Board room

» moderator: *Sharon Moe, MD, FASN*

- **Nutrition**, edge-tech room

» moderator: *Carmen Peralta, MD, MAS*

- **Early Screening, Recognition/Prevention of AKI & CKD**, recharge room

**12:00-1:00PM LUNCH**, RECHARGE ROOM

**1:00-2:00 PM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**, VARIOUS  
LOCATIONS

» moderator: *Paul Conway*

- **Patient Education/Informed Decision Making**, lower hall

» moderator: *Michael Fischer, MD, MSPH*

- **Home Dialysis**, lower hall

» moderator: *Rajiv Saran, MBBS, DTCD, MD, MRCP, MS*

- **Kidney Population Health Informatics - data driven decision making**, conference room

» moderator: *Paul Palevsky, MD, FASN*

- **Telemedicine for Rural and At-Home RRT Patients**, edge-tech room

» moderator: *Renee Dupee, JD*

- **Pathways to cost avoidance in Kidney Disease**, recharge room

**2:00-2:45PM OPEN DISCUSSION**, LOWER HALL

- opportunities for innovation

**2:45-3:00PM CLOSING REMARKS**



# Session Chair Bios

## CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE SESSION CHAIR



### SHARON MOE, MD, FASN

Director of Nephrology and Stuart A. Kleit Professor of Medicine,  
Indiana University  
Nephrology Chief, Roudebush VAMC

Sharon Moe is the Director of the Division of Nephrology and Stuart A. Kleit Professor of Medicine for the Indiana University School of Medicine and Nephrology Chief at Roudebush VAMC in Indianapolis. She has also served as the Associate Dean for Research Support in the IU School of Medicine and the Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Medicine. Dr. Moe is the principal investigator for several ongoing basic and clinical research studies in the field of CKD-Mineral Bone Disorder, including studies on vascular calcification, mineral metabolism and bone metabolism in kidney disease. Her research is funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, Foundations and Pharmaceutical companies. She received her medical training in Chicago with her MD degree from the University of Illinois, residency at Loyola University, and a Nephrology fellowship at the University of Chicago. She has authored over 200 scientific publications. Key Honors include election to the American Society for Clinical Research in 2005; the NKF in Gareb Eknoyan Award for exceptional contributions to key quality initiatives in 2009; Councilor to the AHA Kidney Council (2002-2004), International Society of Nephrology (2005-2007), Councilor for the American Society of Nephrology from 2008- 2015; and President of the American Society of Nephrology from 2013-2014.

## RENAL REPLACEMENT THERAPY SESSION CHAIR



### KLEMENS MEYER, MD

Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine  
Director of Dialysis Services, Tufts Medical Center  
Medical Director for Information Technology, Dialysis Clinic, Inc.

Klemens Meyer has taken care of dialysis patients since his fellowship began in 1987. He has directed the dialysis program at Tufts Medical Center since 1992; the dialysis program currently dialyzes about 110 in-center hemodialysis patients, and about 45 home patients, consisting of mostly PD and a few home hemodialysis. He is a Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, where he received the 2013 Distinguished Faculty Award. He graduated from Harvard College *summa cum laude* in History and Literature, from Harvard Medical School, and served as a medical house officer, Chief Resident and as a fellow in nephrology and clinical decision making at Tufts Medical Center, *née* New England Medical Center.

He has had a career-long interest in “quality of life” and patient experience of care, and in integrating those into medical decision making. He is particularly interested in how we go about making decisions involving trade-offs. He participated in the pilot and full scale HEMO Study, helped to design and execute the CHOICE Study. He was active with the ESRD Network of New England for two decades, and served as President of the Forum of ESRD Networks. He currently serves on the AAKP Medical Advisory Board, of the AAMI Renal Disease and Detoxification Committee, and the USRDS External Expert Committee. He has worked as DCI’s Medical Director for IT since 1995. He has been very involved in using information technology to improve care, for example, building audit functions into the data system, implementing algorithms for anemia management, for pneumococcal vaccination, and for hepatitis testing and immunization.

## TRANSPLANT SESSION CHAIR



### **SANDRA CUPPLES, PHD, RN, FAAN**

National Director, Clinical Services, VA National Surgery Office,  
Veterans Health Administration

Sandy Cupples is the National Director of Clinical Services, National Surgery Office, Veterans Health Administration. In this role, she provides evidence-based, strategic direction to the National Director of Surgery regarding all VHA surgical services and programs. This includes the National Transplant Program (composed of 24 transplant programs) and 16 Surgical Advisory Boards comprised of 96 subject matter experts. She also provides direct oversight of the Surgical Quality Data Use Group to ensure compliance with VHA research policies, and promotes scholarly research utilizing VHA surgical outcomes data. Dr. Cupples serves as a subject matter expert regarding the development and implementation of policies and procedures at local, regional and national levels. In this role she also ensures cost-effective resource utilization strategies to improve organizational performance, and methodologies for oversight and evaluation of all surgical programs.

Sandy received her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, a Master of Science degree in Nursing from Boston University, and a doctorate in Nursing from The Catholic University of America. Prior to coming to the VA in 2011, Sandy was the Heart Transplant Coordinator at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington DC. She is currently the President of the International Transplant Nurses Society and has published 4 books on transplant nursing practice.