



2020 Election Slate
Medical Review Board (MRB)
Board of Directors (BOD)

Position	Candidate Name	Facility	Personal Statement
MRB Nephrologist (1 Positions Open)	Sylvester Barnes IV, MD	Loyola University / Hines VA Medical Center	<i>Since entering the field of nephrology as a fellow I have been very interested in providing dialysis-based care to those patients suffering from end-stage renal disease. I currently function as an interventional nephrologist at Loyola University Medical Center as well as Hines VA Medical Center. My duties of interventional nephrology which includes percutaneous renal biopsies, fistulograms, declots, stent placement and PermCath insertion, I provide input and recommendations in regards to dialysis access and quality improvement of patient's access. In addition to my regular duties of interventional nephrology I also serve as 1 of the physicians that rotates through both of our outpatient dialysis centers of Hines VA and Loyola outpatient Medical Center as well as providing inpatient hemodialysis services for Loyola. I have research interests that I am beginning to develop which focuses on dialysis. I wish to volunteer to be a member of this board to help oversee ESRD network 10's dialysis patient population thrive.</i>
MRB Nephrologist (1 Positions Open)	Gautam Bhanushali MD	Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois	<i>I am an interventional nephrologist 50% time and a general nephrologist 50% of the time in Chicago in the inner city. I am employed at Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois. I am also the medical director of Southside dialysis unit for 3 years. Having both vascular access experience as well as general nephrology experience in a medically underserved region gives me a perspective of the worst-case scenarios in ESRD. I have excellent interpersonal communication skills and am experienced in conflict resolution.</i>

MRB Nephrologist (1 Positions Open)	Daniel Roseman, MD	ILLINOIS KIDNEY CARE	<p><i>I am seeking election to the ESRD Network 10 Medical Review Board, a group dedicated to quality improvement that aligns with my commitment to improving the ESRD patient experience. During and after my nephrology fellowship 8 years ago, I developed and conducted clinical research studies with the NIH-funded Framingham Heart Study in Framingham, MA. At the same time, I was also a community nephrologist and saw exciting opportunities to improve the quality of ESRD care. I eventually returned to Chicago with that determination and now serve as medical director of two Medicare approved DaVita dialysis units overseeing a large and diverse population of ESRD patients where I get to work with a collaborative group of physicians, nurses, social workers and dietitians. Today, my primary focus is the delivery of high-quality kidney care and ensuring compliance with all CMS guidelines. The success of ESRD patients demands that the nephrology community continuously identify areas for quality improvement and effectively implement data-driven CMS programs. I would be excited and honored to be part of the MRB and hope that my experiences in clinical research, private practice and leadership roles can help improve the outcomes of this unique patient population.</i></p>
MRB Social Worker (1 open position)	Shauna Phillips, MSW	Fresenius Kidney Care Westch ester	<p><i>As a clinic Social Worker for the past 17 years, I feel that I have gained valuable experience that I could share with the rest of the members of the MRB. For the last 7 years, I have split my time between a Lead Social Worker and being a clinic Social Worker. I feel that my experience as a Lead has given me a broad overview to the struggles and issues that the rest of the Social Workers in the region face on a regular basis. I worked with the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois to create a video to educate patients about their option of choosing not to receive dialysis and also to help plan their annual fall multidisciplinary meeting. I will also be participating in a virtual town hall hosted by the American Kidney Fund.</i></p>
MRB Social Worker (1 open position)	Charisma Pryor, LSW	Dialyze Direct	<p><i>I seek to serve on the MRB because I wish to expand my service to others. I'm a Licensed Social Worker, currently employed full-time work as Renal Social Worker and a consulting social worker to two other home dialysis clinics. As a patient advocate and member of the interdisciplinary team, daily I assist patients and staff to overcome obstacles to successful patient treatments. I assist other disciplines in migrating through the bureaucracy of coverage and marry patient's needs with</i></p>

			<i>options. These efforts can be taxing, grueling, however ultimately rewarding once achieved. I have 17 years Social Worker experience and licensed since 2007.</i>
MRB Dietician (1 open position)	Sheila Range Lueking, RD	Davita Centralia	<i>I would be honored to serve as a member of the Renal Network's Medical Review Board. I have dedicated the last 23 years of my career to the very specialized field of renal nutrition. Over the years, I have sought ways to improve my skills and better serve my patients, their caregivers and my colleagues. I have maintained my certification as a specialist in renal nutrition with the Commission on Dietetic Registration for the last 20 years. I had also previously become recognized as a Medical Nutrition Therapy Provider and attended Renal Network sponsored conferences. Additionally I have presented at meetings for both the National Kidney Foundation and the organization formerly titled the American Dietetic Association (now Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics). In recent years, I became a leadership dietitian in my company and seek to provide enhanced educational opportunities and to support over 30 of my fellow dietitians, one of who suggested I apply for this position as she plans for retirement. I feel like this would be a great next step for me, as I continue to serve the renal community. Thanks for your consideration!</i>
MRB Patient Care Technician (1 open position)	Tavia Davis, Dialysis Technologist	John Stroger Hospital	<i>I would like to be elected to the MRB to represent the ESRD community that my facility serves on a daily basis. I want to be involved to learn how to facilitate that knowledge and understanding to the facilities in my community. I feel that being on the MRB will help me to empower others to provide outstanding care and service to our ESRD community, with emphasis on the QIA. I have 23yrs of experience in the dialysis field. I have worked in different aspects of the field (chronic, acute, subacute and PD). In those different setting I enjoyed learning from different nephrologist and nurses. I took that knowledge and experience and became an adjunct professor for 2 years. With that being said, I want to be a part of platform that will help my growth, facility and the ESRD community.</i>
MRB Patient Care Technician (1 open position)	Nacedah Hancock, CCHT	Davita Litchfield	<i>As a dialysis technician for the past 15 years, I have a passion for my patients. This passion stems from my personal experience with ESRD. At the age of 16, I was diagnosed with ESRD. Fortunately, in 2014, I received a kidney donor from a live donor prior to starting dialysis, but after my AVF creation. I started my dialysis</i>

			<p><i>career with the Department of Corrections, where I worked for 10 years prior to leaving for DaVita (my current employer) in 2015. Since starting with DaVita, I have played an important role in modality education, safety auditor, preceptor, patient educator as well as many other side roles. I believe that my personal experience and professional experience make me well suited to be a member of the Medical Review Board of ESRD Network 10. It's an honor to be considered to join a team that advocates for the patients that I hold dear to my heart. I'm excited for the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other members of the Board as well as make a positive impact by drawing from my own experiences.</i></p>
<p>MRB Patient Care Technician (1 open position)</p>	<p>Kimberly Rodriguez, CHT</p>	<p>John Stroger Hospital</p>	<p><i>I would like to seek election as a PCT on the board. I have worked in all aspects of dialysis since 2008. Each day I strive to give our patients the best quality of care they deserve and look for ways to constantly improve as a team.</i></p>
<p>MRB Vascular Access or Transplant Surgeon (1 open position)</p>	<p>Reynold Lopez-Soler, MD</p>	<p>Edward Hines Jr., VA Medical Center</p>	<p><i>To Whom it May Concern, I'm writing this letter to express my interest in becoming a member of the ESRD Network (service area 10) Medical Review Board. As part of my transplant fellowship at the University of Chicago, I was exposed to all aspects of renal transplantation. Not only to the operative aspects of the procedure, but also pre- and post-transplant management because as fellows we took all calls related to patient care and organ offers. At both Sentara and AMC, I was intimately involved in all aspects of patient evaluation, selection, as well as decision for transplantation, performing close to 800 evaluations over 8 years. From Fellowship to my current position at Hines VA and LUMC I have performed ~230 kidney transplants. In all cases, I reviewed the organ offers, the potential recipients and made the decision to proceed with the transplant. Additionally, I reviewed almost 3X as many offers that were subsequently turned down. At Sentara, all post-operative patient management was performed by nephrology. However, during the 5 years at AMC, transplant surgeons followed and managed all aspects of transplant care (immunosuppression, management of infectious diseases, hypertension, and renal care) for the first 5 years after transplant. All post-transplant patients within 5 years of transplantation were admitted to and managed by transplant surgeons. In both AMC and at Sentara, I actively participated in QAPI meetings, programmatic changes, staffing, as well as assisted</i></p>

			<p><i>in the development of new and modifying existing protocols. Both institutions underwent audits by both CMS and UNOS, and I was involved in the preparation as well after-action reports in order to drive program improvement. Our new program at the Hines VA will be the 8th renal transplant program in the second largest catchment area in the country (second to the Bronx VA). Veterans have had traditionally harder roads to transplantation and therefore I feel lucky and proud to open this program where it is so needed. Also, it has always been a goal of mine to work in a VA system, giving back to those who gave so much. In addition, as part of my position at Sentara, AMC, and now the Hines VA (over the last 10 years) I have been involved in many dialysis accesses cases, but especially in placing and managing Peritoneal Dialysis catheters. I believe that my training as both a transplant surgeon as well as my expertise in dialysis access will be advantageous for the Medical Review Board's efforts to analyze and improve success with dialysis as well as renal transplantation.</i></p>
<p>MRB Vascular Access or Transplant Surgeon (1 open position)</p>	<p>Ramesh Soundararajan , MD</p>	<p>Associates in Nephrology</p>	<p><i>I have been an interventional nephrologist doing access procedures for over 20 years. I work at ASSOCIATES in Nephrology Chicago. And passionate about creating appropriate access for our pts. I also use ultrasound at point of care to help staff with cannulation. I practice clinical nephrology half the time and am a medical director of a dialysis unit. I also teach point of care ultrasound to the residents and medical students and think that tool can be used by Nephrologists to help with volume management and blood pressure management. We also use Crit line in our units to guide fluid management.</i></p>
<p>BOD Nephrologist (1 open position)</p>	<p>Suresh Samson, MD</p>	<p>Concerto Renal Services</p>	<p><i>As a Chief Medical Officer for a dialysis provider for Nursing home dialysis overseeing care of hundreds of patients, I would like to be a voice for all Nursing home dialysis patients. Being part of the ESRD Network 10 Medical Review Board for last 3 years has given me a great knowledge and understanding of the Network and be a better advocate for the patients undergoing nursing home dialysis. This patient population is different from the regular outpatient dialysis patient in many aspects starting with number of comorbidities conditions, acuity, nutrition, functional status to make a few. And the model of care has a lot of difference and challenges as well. Being part of the board will be a great venue for me to bring</i></p>

			<i>these problems to the focus and enable CMS and other organizations make necessary changes and provide appropriate resources and oversight.</i>
BOD At-Large (2 open positions)	Tom McDowell, LCSW	Fresenius Kidney Care Oak Park	<i>My name is Tom McDowell and I am a LCSW working for Fresenius Kidney Care. I have served on the Medical Review Board for Network 10 since 2015 and now I am looking to expand my experience working with the network. My passion is helping new dialysis patients understand their illness, learn about treatment, and ultimately help them improve their quality of life. The long-term relationship I have created with my patients makes my job very rewarding when a patient receives a kidney transplant, or is able to improve their quality of life on dialysis. During my time with the network, I have worked on several projects with the goals of educating patient on transplant, improving VR participation, and addressing patient concerns. If elected to the Board of Directors, my goal would be to use my experience and knowledge to help advocate for what I believe would help improve the networks impact on each dialysis clinic in our region.</i>
BOD At-Large (2 open positions)	Tomisa Jackson, CCHT	RenPro Ren al Services	<i>I have a solid reputation for superior performance, accuracy, and decision-making abilities. I am CPR instructor thru AHA and trained for CCPD/CAPD/CRRT. I am efficient with multiple HD machines including the Next Stage, and Critical UF monitor. I have 20 years of experience in a chronic setting/ 6 years on the acute team as an Acute Clinical Coordinator, assign to six area hospitals, scheduling HD treatments with a team of 15 staff members. Currently, I am working with a company that provides dialysis services to Nursing home residents as part of their education team. The knowledge and experience that I have gained from being on the Network Medical Review Board has been priceless. I have learned so much from the other disciplinary team members, including the Network 10 staff. I can see things not just from a technician point of view and becoming part of the BOD would be an honor.</i>