CAT DAVIS AHMED, MBA

Vice President, Policy and Outreach | The FH Foundation

Cat Davis Ahmed is Vice President, Policy and Outreach for the FH Foundation, where she works with individuals with Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) and the medical professionals who treat them to raise awareness of FH and improve the understanding, diagnosis, and care of this life-threatening genetic condition. Cat works on a national level to advocate on behalf of individuals with FH with policy makers and other decision makers to ensure that FH is recognized and understood as a distinct genetic disorder affecting approximately 1.3 million Americans.

JOHN ANDERSON, MD

Past President | The Frist Clinic

Dr. John Anderson practices internal medicine and diabetes at the Frist Clinic in Nashville, TN. Dr. Anderson has served as a long-time volunteer for the American Diabetes Association both locally and nationally. He has served two separate terms on the National Board of Directors for the ADA, as well as three years on the Executive Committee. In 2013 he received the Banting Medal for service as President of Medicine and Science for the ADA. Dr. Anderson continues to consult and lecture both nationally and internationally, with a focus on improving the care of people with diabetes in the primary care setting.

JIM BARTON

Patient and Advocate | Mended Hearts

Jim Barton is a Mended Hearts volunteer who provides peer-to-peer support for heart-surgery patients in Northern Virginia. Jim worked for 26 years as an independent agent for a leading firm in the scholastic and corporate recognition industry. Recognized as National Salesman of the Year with Balfour Company, he later served as the General Sales Manager of Award Crafters Inc. Jim has enjoyed years of activity outdoors: competitive and recreational sailing, hunting, fishing and attending sporting events.

MARTHA BIDDLE, PHD, APRN, CCNS, FAHA

Associate Professor | College of Nursing, University of Kentucky

Dr. Martha Biddle received both her master's degree and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from the University of Kentucky. Her research interests include primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease in rural populations. Currently, Dr. Biddle is an associate professor and coordinator for the Clinical Nurse Specialist Track in the DNP Program at the College of Nursing, University of Kentucky. Previous to her appointment as a faculty member, she developed and directed a cardiac rehabilitation and disease management program at a community hospital.

SARAH CASAGRANDE, PHD

Senior Research Analyst | Social & Scientific Systems, Inc, Contract with NIDDK

Sarah Casagrande is currently a senior research analyst at Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., a private company that supports public health research and health programs to enable policymakers, medical professionals, communities, and citizens to improve public health. Sarah has nearly 40 publications in peer reviewed journals. Her research supports scientists at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and is focused on the prevalence of diabetes and its associated complications in the United States, diabetes management and control, and issues related to access to care among persons with diabetes.

FLORENCE CHAMPAGNE, MSW

WomenHeart Champion & CEO of Open My Heart Foundation

Florence Champagne suffered a heart attack March of 2012, which required open heart surgery. Due to being uninsured at the time, she had not received proper diagnostic testing and treatment. She found that she was not alone, and met other uninsured or underinsured African-American women, which impacted their ability to receive treatment. Finding purpose in her pain, Florence provides support, advocacy, and leadership to women living with heart disease through WomenHeart, where she is a spokesperson. Through her advocacy, education, and speaking engagements, Florence has reached approximately 6,000 women.

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NANCY D'HONDT, RPH, CDE

Past President | American Association of Diabetes Educators

Nancy is a clinical pharmacist and certified diabetes educator working at Ascension St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit, MI. Nancy's involvement in the diabetes landscape spans 20 years where she has served on local and national committees for the American Diabetes Association (ADA), JDRF and the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE). Nancy served as President of the American Association of Diabetes Educators in 2017.

KEITH FERDINAND, MD

Professor of Medicine | Tulane University School of Medicine

Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, is the Gerald S. Berenson Endowed Chair in Preventive Cardiology and Professor of Medicine at the Tulane University School of Medicine and the Tulane Heart and Vascular Institute in New Orleans, LA. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the National Lipid Association, and the American Society of Hypertension. Dr. Ferdinand is past Chair of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and has served as Chief Science Officer and past chair of the Association of Black Cardiologists. He has lectured nationally and internationally on topics including cardiovascular disease in the African American population, heart failure, hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and racial and ethnic disparities in cardiovascular outcomes.

HARRY GEWANTER, MD

Alliance for Affordable and Transparent Prescriptions

Harry L Gewanter, FAAP, MACR is a pediatric rheumatologist and the co-founder & Medical Director of Medical Home Plus, Inc (MHP), a nonprofit dedicated to supporting and helping families with children with disabilities. He has practiced for over 30 years in Richmond, VA.A vigorous advocate for all people with disabilities, Dr. Gewanter is active within the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), American Academy of Pediatrics, the Arthritis Foundation and many other local and national organizations. He is a Director of the Coalition for State Rheumatology Organizations and a member of the Alliance for Affordable and Transparent Prescriptions.

RYAN GOUGH

Executive Director | Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health

Ryan Gough is the Executive Director of the Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health (PACH). At PACH, Ryan leads a coalition of cardiovascular stakeholder groups to address policy issues that impact patient access to appropriate care. Prior to patient advocacy, Ryan managed several political campaigns and initiatives in Iowa, Massachusetts and Virginia. Ryan resides in Boston with his wife, Katherine, a biologist and PhD candidate at Harvard University, and his son, Hayes.

EILEEN HANDBERG, PHD

Professor of Medicine | University of Florida Health

Dr. Handberg is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Cardiovascular Clinical Trials Program in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Florida. She is an Adult Nurse Practitioner and works with Interventional Cardiology Service, and manages research patient care. She is program Director for the practitioner competency assessment program Florida CARES, one of only 7 Assessment Centers in the US. She is very active in the American College of Cardiology, serving as the Chair of the Cardiovascular Team Section and several Board level committees. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association.

CARA V. JAMES, PHD

Director, Office of Minority Health | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Dr. James is the Director of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of Minority Health (OMH), and co-chair of the CMS Rural Health Council. She is a nationally recognized expert and thought leader in health disparities, health equity, and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations. As the Director of the CMS OMH, Dr. James leads CMS's efforts to meet the unique needs of minority and underserved populations. Dr. James is a member of the National Academy of Medicine Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities.

SANDEEP JAUHAR, MD

Author and Cardiologist

Sandeep Jauhar is a practicing cardiologist, contributing opinion writer for The New York Times, and the author of Heart: A History, which tells the colorful and little-known story of the doctors who risked their careers and the patients who risked their lives to know and heal our most vital organ. His first book, Intern: A Doctor's Initiation, was a national bestseller and his second book, Doctored: The Disillusionment of an American Physician, was a New York Times bestseller. Dr. Jauhar has appeared frequently on National Public Radio, CNN, and MSNBC to discuss issues related to medicine.

BRIAN KENNEDY, JD

Executive Director | Alliance for Patient Access

Since its founding in 2006, Brian Kennedy has served as Executive Director of the Alliance for Patient Access, a national network of physicians with the shared mission of promoting health policy that ensures patient access to appropriate clinical care and approved therapies. Along with its physician leadership, Mr. Kennedy has led AfPA to be the nation's largest multi-specialty physician organization solely focused on health policy issues related to patient access. Mr. Kennedy has overseen the development of policy initiatives regarding biologic therapy substitution, prescription drug abuse and diversion, health plan coverage, and payment policies and informed prescribing.

JEFF KWITOWSKI

Patient and Board Member | Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health

Jeff Kwitowski is Senior Vice President of Public Affairs & Policy Communications at K12 Inc., a leading technology-based education services company. Jeff supports K12's state and federal government affairs efforts, working with policymakers to develop and advocate for policies that expand school options, digital learning, and parent choice in education. Jeff is a heart patient and member of the board for the Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health. He resides in Herndon, VA with his wife, Rebecca, and four daughters, one of whom is diagnosed with familial hypercholesterolemia.

KENNETH MORITSUGU, MD MPH, FACPM

Former U.S. Surgeon General

Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu was the Acting Surgeon General of the United States in 2002 and again from July 2006 until his retirement from the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) in September 2007. As Acting Surgeon General, he served as the nation's top doctor, communicating the best available science and information to the American people to help protect, promote, and advance their health and safety. He was the operational commander of the 6,500 Commissioned Corps health professionals. A career officer in the USPHS for 37 years, he served as the Deputy Surgeon General of the United States from 1998.

NICK MORSE

Division Vice President, Advocacy | American College of Cardiology

As DVP for Advocacy, Nick is charged with guiding and strengthening the ACC's interaction and influence with policymakers and other stakeholders to advance the College's mission of transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health. Nick and the College's Advocacy team work closely with ACC staff and member leaders to spearhead engagement and the development of sound policy to lessen the burden of cardiovascular disease and address the complex issues facing America's health care system.

KIM NEWLIN, MSN, ANP

President of the Board | Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Kim Newlin is the Director of Cardiovascular Services at Sutter Roseville Medical Center. As an Adult Nurse Practitioner, Kim sees patients and supervises operations at the hospital's transitional care Heart Health Clinic, which she helped establish seven years ago. She works with a multidisciplinary team and several post-acute care organizations to improve the patient experience during their stay in the hospital and the transition home, while reducing readmissions back to the hospital. Kim is President of the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurse Association's Board of Directors.

CONNIE NEWLON

WomenHeart Champion

Connie Newlon is a WomenHeart District Leader and a National Spokesperson for the organization. She became a WomenHeart Champion at the WomenHeart Symposium in 2007 at the Mayo Clinic. She frequently attends Capitol Hill to advocate on behalf of heart patients, and will be visiting yet this year to advocate for funding for heart research. Connie served on the American Heart Advocacy Board in 2015 and was given the American Heart Volunteer of the Year Award in 2017.

ROBIN DIGGS OUTLAW, MPH

Chief, Chronic Disease Division | District of Columbia Department of Health

Robin Diggs Outlaw is the Chief of the Chronic Disease Division within the District of Columbia Department of Health's Community Health Administration. As Division Chief, Ms. Diggs leads several of the District's chronic disease prevention and management initiatives focused on health system transformation and quality improvement, policy and environmental interventions to support healthy lifestyles, and clinically integrated community programming. She also serves as senior public health advisor for several priority community health initiatives related to primary care delivery, school health, and maternal and child health.

ALYSSA PRESSLEY

Executive Portfolio Lead for Diabetes | American Heart Association

Alyssa Pressley is the Executive Portfolio Lead for Diabetes at the American Heart Association (AHA). In this role she leads enterprise-wide diabetes strategy and integration, serving as Director of the Know Diabetes by Heart Initiative. Know Diabetes by Heart is a joint initiative between the AHA and the American Diabetes Association (ADA), supporting the shared mission to reduce the impact of cardiovascular disease in people with type 2 diabetes.

LINDSAY VIDENIEKS, JD

Cardiovascular Working Group Manager | Alliance for Patient Access

Lindsay Videnieks manages AfPA's Cardiovascular Disease Working Group, which brings together policy-minded clinicians who care about patient access. Lindsay has more than a decade of experience in advising non-profit organizations on strategies to secure federal funding and support public policy goals. Lindsay graduated from the University of Maine at Orono with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and English and received her Juris Doctor degree from the Catholic University Columbus School ofLaw. She is a member of the Bar in the State of Maryland and resides in Washington, D.C. with her husband and her (soon to be three) children.

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