

# KIDNEY CARE QUALITY ALLIANCE

## **KCQA ANEMIA WORKGROUP**

(alphabetically by organization)

### **Akebia**

Todd Berner, MD

### **American Society of Nephrology**

Steven Fishbane, MD

### **Renal Support Network**

Lori Hartwell

### **Satellite Healthcare**

Eric Weinhandl, PhD, MS

### **University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy**

Wendy St. Peter, PharmD

## KCQA ANEMIA WORKGROUP BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

(alphabetically by last name)

### **Todd Berner, MD (Akebia)**

Todd Berner is a Medical Affairs professional focused on listening to the voice of the patient in nephrology and rare diseases. He has been actively reimagining nimble Medical Affairs functions fit for purpose and relevant to an evolving, value-based healthcare environment. He has been engaged in the pursuit of quality and value, first as a practicing physician leading quality improvement initiatives, and for a decade leading health outcome research initiatives at the patient, provider, and system levels.

As the Head Global Medical Affairs at Akebia Therapeutics, he is responsible for directing all medical affairs functions of the division, including strategic planning, P-IV clinical trial planning and execution, safety studies, while providing medical input to cross functional Global teams, including business development. He has made contributions to data generation encompassing pragmatic, observational, comparative effectiveness, big data, and humanistic studies and has authored numerous publications and scientific presentations on various aspects of the costs and consequences of pharmacy and medical interventions and health policies. Prior to Akebia, he has been the Leader for Global Medical Affairs teams at Astellas, Baxalta/Shire, Agilis Biotherapeutics/PTC Therapeutics and Rhythm pharmaceuticals and responsible for Clinical Trials, HEOR, and Field Based MSL teams, and developed and led many RWE research collaborations.

Todd Berner's proudest accomplishments include co-chairing ISPOR Patient Centered SIG, and Patient Engagement in Research Working Group, serving as PCORI Grant Reviewer, Sr. Fellow School of Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University, and Chairing PQA Palliative Care Pain Management Working Group, Journal Reviewer for Value in Health, and for JMCP.

### **Steven Fishbane, MD (ASN)**

Steven Fishbane MD is Chief of the Division of Nephrology at Northwell Health. He also serves as Vice President for the Health System for Dialysis Services. Throughout his career he has been involved in research on all aspects of anemia management on kidney disease. This has included diagnosis, treatment and management. He services on the KDIGO Anemia Guidelines group and was a member of the KDIGO Conference of Novel Anemia Therapies in 2021. In research he served as international lead investigator on key studies in anemia and iron management.

### **Lori Hartwell (RSN)**

Lori Hartwell's mission is to help people living with chronic kidney disease. Hartwell suffered kidney failure at the age of two, survived 50+ surgeries and 13 years of dialysis, and is now living with her fourth kidney transplant. Hartwell founded Renal Support Network in 1993 to instill "health, happiness, and hope" into the lives of fellow patients; she serves as President to this day and has inspired patients, family members and healthcare professionals. She has built a national network of people who she refers to as her "kidney kin" to help let them know they are not alone in this journey and help them find the tools needed to navigate this illness.

### **Wendy St. Peter, PharmD (University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy)**

Dr. Wendy St. Peter is a Professor in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center, where she also completed a fellowship in adult medicine. She served as a clinical practitioner at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis for several years where she provided medication therapy management in dialysis and chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients. Dr. St. Peter's career has been focused on improving medication management and drug safety in

patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). She conducts pharmacoepidemiology and health economic and outcomes research using Medicare, commercial datasets and electronic health record data. She is an investigator with the United States Renal Data System (USRDS) and Chronic Disease Research Group. She has served on several national technical expert panels for medication-related safety and quality measurement and served on the Board of Directors of the Kidney Health Initiative. She was a member of the American Society of Nephrology-National Kidney Foundation joint Taskforce on eGFR and Race. Dr. St. Peter is currently leading a national initiative to Advance Kidney Health through Optimal Medication Management.

**Eric Weinhandl, PhD, MS (Satellite Healthcare)**

Eric Weinhandl is an epidemiologist and biostatistician, and as of December 2021, the senior director of data analytics and home therapies at Satellite and Healthcare. Eric has worked in dialysis research since 2004, with approximately two-thirds of his career at the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and one-third of his career at NxStage Medical and, following the acquisition of the company, at Fresenius Medical Care. At Hennepin, Eric served as a co-investigator of the United States Renal Data System (USRDS), with a recent focus on home dialysis and the impact of COVID-19. During his career, Eric has focused on the epidemiology and comparative effectiveness of home dialysis, with a special focus on intensive home hemodialysis; pharmaco-epidemiology in end stage kidney disease; and Medicare policy and reimbursement pertaining to outpatient dialysis. Eric earned a Master of Science degree in biostatistics and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota, where he continues to serve as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Care and Health Systems. He resides in Victoria, Minnesota with his wife, Sarah, and 4 children, Isaac, Lucas, Max, and Abbilyn.