



May 25, 2018

Clydetta Powell, MD, MPH, FAAP
Director, Division of Health Care Quality
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, OASH
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite LL100 Tower Building
Rockville, MD 20852
VIA EMAIL: OHQ@hhs.gov

SUBJECT: National Clinical Care Commission

Dear Dr. Powell:

The Obesity Care Advocacy Network (OCAN) is writing to support the nominations of the following individuals by the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance and the American Association for Nurse Practitioners for consideration for the National Clinical Care Commission. OCAN members supported advocacy efforts to enact the National Clinical Care Commission Act over the last five years. We strongly believe the Commission will help the nation undertake more proactive and innovative approaches to the prevention and treatment of obesity as a complex chronic disease.

The OCAN is a coalition of diverse organizations that have come together with the purpose of changing how we perceive and approach the rising crisis of obesity in this nation and committed to chronic weight management and comprehensive care of patients with obesity and obesity-related comorbidities, to include diabetes. The OCAN seeks to prevent disease progression, improve access to evidence-based treatments for obesity, improve standards of quality care in obesity management, to eliminate weight bias, and to foster innovation in future obesity treatments.

As outlined in the legislation and Federal Register notice, the individuals cited below have received the support of the OCAN and have expertise in prevention, care and epidemiology of diseases and complications described in the National Clinical Care Commission Act. These individuals represent physician specialists, including clinical endocrinologists, primary care physicians, non-physician health care professionals, patient advocates, and national experts. The OCAN supports the following nominations for the National Clinical Care Commission:

Ronald T. Ackermann, MD, MPH

Dr. Ackerman is Senior Associate Dean for Public Health and Professor of Medicine and Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. He directs Northwestern University's Institute for Public Health and Medicine and is Co-Director for the Center for Diabetes and Metabolism. He is a clinical and population health researcher and practicing primary care clinician with dual appointments in General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics and in Endocrinology. He is considered an international expert in the design and evaluation of policies, systems, and programs that have been designed to prevent and manage type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular risk conditions. He has been continuously funded by HHS since 2004 as principal investigator for a series of research studies that have helped inform nationwide implementation and health payer reimbursement for community and health system-based interventions to prevent type 2 diabetes in U.S. adults. He also actively conducts research on the comparative effectiveness of new medications and technologies to improve the prevention and care of diabetes and other chronic conditions and risk factors. Through this work, he has collaborated extensively with patients, clinicians, healthcare leaders, community organizations, advocacy groups, public agencies, and policy decision makers. From 2013-2015 he chaired an expert panel of the National Diabetes Education Program to develop new resources and tools to assist clinicians in providing key roles in the prevention of type 2 diabetes. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the American Medical Association's Prediabetes Quality Measures Technical Expert Panel and is funded by the NIH under federal award R18DK110741 to evaluate the impact of national and regional policies and large-scale health system initiatives aiming to increase rates of prediabetes and diabetes screening, as well as the delivery of interventions to prevent type 2 diabetes among U.S. adults.

Christel Marchand Aprigliano

Ms. Aprigliano is an international speaker, nonprofit executive, and diabetes advocate, having lived with Type 1 diabetes since 1983. As the CEO of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC), she focuses on providing the patient community's voice in diabetes policy issues on a federal and state level. Aprigliano has sat on the gubernatorial appointed Florida Diabetes Advisory Council and acts as a peer reviewer for diabetes journals, PCORI, and international grant organizations. She holds a BA from McGill University (Montréal, Canada) and a MS from UMUC (Heidelberg, Germany).

William T. Cefalu, MD

Dr. Cefalu is Chief Scientific, Medical & Mission Officer at the American Diabetes Association (Association), the global authority on diabetes. Since 1940, the Association has been committed to its mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. In his role, Dr. Cefalu leads the Association's mission efforts to drive discovery within the world of diabetes research, care and prevention; raise voice to the urgency of the diabetes epidemic; and provide support and advocacy for the millions of people living with diabetes, and those at risk of developing diabetes, and the health care professionals who serve them.

Jasmine Gonzalvo, PharmD, BCPS, BC-ADM, CDE, LDE

Ms. Gonzalvo is a pharmacist diabetes educator who provides direct patient care in a primary care clinic for the underserved population at Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis, IN. She has developed, implemented, and helped sustain a variety of diabetes programs in community health centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers, which aim to increase access to care for the most vulnerable populations. She has served on an Interim Study Committee for Public Health in Indiana, working with legislators, which resulted in the passage of diabetes-related legislation. Gonzalvo has also served on the Board of Directors for both the American Association of Diabetes Educators and the National Certification Board of Diabetes Educators.

William H. Herman, MD, MPH

Dr. Herman is the Stefan S. Fajans/GlaxoSmithKline Professor of Diabetes, Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology, and Director of the Michigan Center for Diabetes Translational Research (MCDTR). He completed his undergraduate degree at Yale University in 1975 and received his medical degree from Boston University in 1979. He gained a Masters of Public Health (Epidemiology) from the University of Michigan in 1993. Dr. Herman's interests include clinical diabetes and diabetes epidemiology, especially in the areas of surveillance, screening, treatment, and cost-effective analysis. He has authored for than 340 original research papers, reviews and textbook chapters and is a member of the research groups for the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT), Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (EDIC), Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS), and The Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness Study (GRADE). Dr. Herman received the American Diabetes Association's Kelly West Award for outstanding achievement in diabetes epidemiology in 2006 and the U-M Dean's Award for Clinical and Health Services Research in 2007. He has been recognized by Best Doctors as a "Best Doctor in America" for more than 10 years.

Rita Kalyani, MD, MHS

Dr. Kalyani is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism. She graduated with an undergraduate degree from Harvard College and completed her medical degree, residency, and fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Kalyani is an active clinician and sees patients regularly in the Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Diabetes Center. She directs the Diabetes Management Service for Johns Hopkins' Total Pancreatectomy Islet Auto Transplant Program. Dr. Kalyani is NIH funded for her research on diabetes and aging and sex differences in diabetes. She is Chair of the American Diabetes Association's Professional Practice Committee, which oversees the organization's clinical practice guidelines and is responsible for the annual position statement: "Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes". Dr. Kalyani is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. She is also the co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *Johns Hopkins Diabetes POC-IT Guide* for health care professionals. Dr. Kalyani is actively involved in public education and diabetes awareness efforts including appearances on *The Today Show*, *The Dr. Oz Show*, *The Diane Rehm Show*, and *NPR*. She was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2017.

Jonathan Leffert, MD, FACP, FACE, ECNU

Dr. Leffert is a clinical endocrinologist and managing partner of North Texas Endocrine Center. He is an attending physician at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, and Clinical Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas. Dr. Leffert was a key proponent of the legislation establishing the National Clinical Care Commission and was instrumental in establishing a coalition of organizations, including the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance, which were united in support for the National Clinical Care Commission Act. Dr. Leffert helped to guide the bill through both Houses of Congress, testifying before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health on the need to establish the National Clinical Care Commission, which resulted in the legislation becoming law. Dr. Leffert's passion will help ensure the National Clinical Care Commission is focused on what is best for patients and is effective in its mission to improve patient care.

Melinda Maryniuk, Med, RD, FADA, CDE

Ms. Maryniuk is Director of Care Programs for the Joslin Innovations division within Joslin Diabetes Center. Ms. Maryniuk oversees the clinical, educational and quality improvement activities for the 40 Joslin Affiliates and outreach programs within the US and around the world. Her areas of special interest include nutrition, patient education, behavior change, and increasing access to quality diabetes education services. Maryniuk has worked in the field of diabetes education for over 35 years and has lectured and published extensively for both patient and professional audiences. She is active within the American Diabetes Association, having served on the Board of Directors, as chair of the Education Recognition Program Committee and is currently an Associate Editor for Clinical Diabetes. She is the recipient of the 2005 Outstanding Educator in Diabetes from the American Diabetes Association as well as the 2010 Medallion Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She recently served as a Co-Chair for the task force to review and revise the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education.

Anna Parker DCN, MS, RD, CDE, CCRC

Dr. Parker is a research dietitian with Anaheim Clinical Trials in Anaheim, California. She is team leader for all clinical trials for patients with Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes. She is passionate about diabetes and devoted to diabetes research to help patients improve their diabetes control and live a better quality of life. Dr. Parker is a graduate of Rutgers University where she received her Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition. During her graduate studies, she obtained grant funding from the Diabetes Care and Education Dietetic Practice Group (DCE DPG) Karen Goldstein Memorial Grant for Diabetes Medical Nutrition Therapy to pursue a randomized clinical research trial to investigate the effect of medical nutrition therapy (MNT) compared with usual care on fasting plasma glucose values, glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), serum lipid levels, and Diabetes Risk Score, from baseline to the end of a 12-week intervention in overweight or obese adults with prediabetes. Seventy-six subjects participated and the results were published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has also published in the area of Evidence Based Practice in Dietetics. Dr. Parker has received various honors and awards, as well as also serving as a National Study Coordinator for Novo Nordisk, contributing to the area of clinical research trials.

S. Sethu Reddy, MD, MBA, FRCPC, FACP, MACE

Dr. Reddy is currently Professor and Chair of Medicine, Central Michigan University College of Medicine and is a clinical endocrinologist with an active practice that predominantly serves Medicaid patients. Dr. Reddy has previously been Chief of Adult Diabetes at Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard, in Boston, Chairman of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism at Cleveland Clinic and a Vice President for Medical Affairs at Merck. Dr. Reddy's diverse experiences, spanning the breadth of endocrinology, from bench research and clinical research to quality improvement, drug development and day-to-day patient care, will greatly assist the National Clinical Care Commission as it focuses on ways to improve the translation of basic science and translational areas of diabetes programs in the federal government into everyday clinical practice.

Henry Rodriguez, MD

Dr. Rodriguez is a highly regarded pediatric endocrinologist whose career has focused on the prevention of diabetes and the improvement of diabetes management, always advocating on behalf of those affected by disease. He is currently a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of South Florida (USF) in the Health Informatics Institute and the Clinical Director of the USF Diabetes and Endocrinology Center where he leads the clinical, clinical research, and education missions of a Center that serves children and adults. He previously directed the Pediatric Diabetes Program at the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children, Indiana University. Dr. Rodriguez has held many positions in diabetes and endocrine organizations. His contributions to the American Diabetes Association (ADA) include roles as a former member of the National Board and the Research Grant Review and Professional Practice Committees. He currently serves on the Scientific and Medical Programs Oversight and Legal Advocacy Committees, as Co-Chair of the Safe at School Working Group, and a member of the Membership Advisory Group and the ADA Diabetes *Forecast* Editorial Board. He is also the President of the local ADA Community Leadership Board. He is also a longstanding supporter of the JDRF, serving as President of the Indiana Chapter Board of Directors from 2006 to 2008, and President of their Board of Chancellors in 2009.

In addition to these qualified individuals, the OCAN would also like to support the following nominations by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the Obesity Medicine Association:

Susan S. VanBeuge, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP

Dr. VanBeuge is an advanced practice registered nurse and board-certified family nurse practitioner practicing in the clinical subspecialty of endocrinology in a high-volume setting with complex diabetic adult patients, integrating evidence-based practice and technology to achieve the best possible outcomes. She is an associate professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in the School of Nursing with primary teaching roles in the family nurse practitioner and doctor of nursing practice programs.

Angela Fitch, MD, FACP, FOMA

Dr. Fitch will be the Associate Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Weight Center and Assistant in Medicine at Harvard Medical School starting in August of 2018. She is a national leader in clinical obesity medicine and is currently the Secretary/Treasurer of the Obesity Medicine Association.

Thank you for considering these nominees for the National Clinical Care Commission. The OCAN strongly believes these individuals would be valuable members of the Commission and that their clinical expertise and practical experience will facilitate critically important recommendations for new strategies to improve patient care.

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Eisai, Inc.
Endocrine Society
Healthcare Leadership Council
Novo Nordisk, Inc.
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity Medicine Association
SECA
The Obesity Society
Weight Watchers