



Biographies

Treatment Options for Uterine Fibroids

Workgroup Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

1828 L Street, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036



Joe V. Selby, MD, MPH
Executive Director
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Joe V. Selby is the first Executive Director of PCORI. A family physician, clinical epidemiologist, and health services researcher, Dr. Selby has more than 35 years of experience in patient care, research, and administration. He is responsible for identifying strategic issues and opportunities for PCORI and implementing and administering programs authorized by the PCORI Board of Governors.

Dr. Selby joined PCORI from Kaiser Permanente, Northern California, where he was Director of the Division of Research for 13 years and oversaw a department of more than 50 investigators and 500 research staff members working on more than 250 ongoing studies. He was with Kaiser Permanente for 27 years. An accomplished researcher, Dr. Selby has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and continues to conduct research, primarily in the areas of diabetes outcomes and quality improvement. His publications cover a spectrum of topics, including effectiveness studies of colorectal cancer screening strategies; treatment effectiveness, population management, and disparities in diabetes mellitus; primary care delivery; and quality measurement.



Anne C. Beal, MD, MPH
Chief Operating Officer
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Anne C. Beal is Chief Operating Officer of PCORI. A pediatrician and public health specialist, she has devoted her career to providing access to high-quality health care through the delivery of healthcare services, teaching, research, public health, and philanthropy. As PCORI's first COO, Dr. Beal is responsible for ensuring PCORI develops the structure and capacity needed to carry out its mission as the nation's largest research institute focused on patient-centered outcomes research.

Dr. Beal joined PCORI from the Aetna Foundation, the independent charitable and philanthropic arm of Aetna Inc. As President, she led the Foundation's work on improving health care in the United States, particularly for vulnerable patient groups. She is also the author of *The Black Parenting Book: Caring for Our Children in the First Five Years*. Dr. Beal has been a pediatric commentator and medical correspondent for *Essence* magazine, The American Baby Show, ABC News, and NBC News. She holds a BA from Brown University, an MD from Cornell University Medical College, and an MPH from Columbia University. She completed her internship, residency, and National Research Service Award fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.



David Hickam, MD, MPH
**Program Director, Assessment of Prevention,
Diagnosis, and Treatment Options**
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

David Hickam is Program Director of the Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options program at PCORI. He is a specialist in internal medicine and has 30 years of experience as a health services researcher. His past research has focused on strategies for improving healthcare outcomes among adults with chronic diseases. He is responsible for developing PCORI's research program that evaluates comparisons among alternative clinical strategies in a broad range of clinical domains. He also provides staff support to the PCORI Methodology Committee.

Dr. Hickam previously held the rank of Professor in the Department of Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). He also held a joint faculty appointment in OHSU's Department of Medical Informatics and Epidemiology. He was a senior investigator in the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center at OHSU and also served as Co-Director of the health services research and development program at the Portland VA Medical Center. He has expertise in a broad range of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.

In 2005, he became the founding Director of the John M. Eisenberg Clinical Decisions and Communications Science Center, funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The Eisenberg Center has developed innovative approaches for helping people use evidence-based information to participate in decision making about their health care.

Dr. Hickam received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University, an MD from the University of California San Francisco, and an MPH from the University of California Berkeley.



James H. Segars, MD
Head of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
**National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
(NICHD)**

James H. Segars is head of the Unit on Reproductive Endocrinology within the Reproductive Biology and Medicine Branch of NICHD at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. His primary clinical research interests are assisted reproduction and uterine fibroids. After graduating from Duke University School of Medicine, Dr. Segars completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology followed by a clinical fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology at Vanderbilt University. He then completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology in the laboratory of Dr. Keiko Ozato at NIH as a scholar in the Reproductive Scientist

Training Program.

Dr. Segars joined the intramural NICHD program where his laboratory pursues translational, clinical, and basic research relevant to reproduction and uterine fibroids. His interest in assisted reproduction resulted in co-founding the Walter Reed Army Program for Assisted Reproduction. Dr. Segars is the fellowship Program Director for the NICHD-sponsored Clinical Reproductive Endocrinology Training Program. Dr. Segars holds board certifications in obstetrics and gynecology and reproductive endocrinology.



Elizabeth Battaglino, RN
Chief Executive Officer, HealthyWomen.org

Elizabeth Battaglino brings a unique combination of sharp business expertise and, as a practicing registered nurse, medical knowledge to her role as CEO of HealthyWomen, a non-profit organization providing women with in-depth, objective, medically approved information on a broad range of women's health issues.

Ms. Battaglino has worked in the healthcare industry for nearly 20 years, helping to define and drive public education programs on a broad range of women's health issues. These programs have run the gamut from heart health and cancers to migraines and oral hygiene. Her management and marketing expertise is particularly critical as HealthyWomen moves to expand its outreach to millions of women across the country through updated technology, wider program distribution, and new public education and awareness efforts.

Ms. Battaglino is responsible for setting the strategic direction of HealthyWomen and building alliances with corporations, healthcare professionals, and consumer groups. She also serves as the organization's chief spokesperson, regularly speaking at corporate, non-profit, community, and media events. In addition to her nursing degree, she holds degrees in political science, business, and public administration from Marymount University and the University of Oklahoma.



Bijan Borah, MSc, MA, PhD
Assistant Professor of Health Services Research
College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic

Bijan Borah is an Assistant Professor of Health Services Research in the College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Borah's current research interests include economics of uterine fibroids, observational comparative effectiveness research, patient-centered intervention strategies for improving medication adherence in chronic disease patients, and healthcare quality improvement. Prior to joining Mayo Clinic, Dr. Borah was an

Associate Director of Health Economics and Outcomes Research at UnitedHealth, Minnesota, where he had extensive experience in the use of healthcare claims data for observational comparative effectiveness research.

Dr. Borah completed his BSc and MSc in Statistics from Delhi University, India, and MA and PhD in Economics from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, with specialization in Health Economics. Dr. Borah received a 2011 Research Award from Focused Ultrasound Foundation, through which he evaluated the costs of non-surgical treatment options for uterine fibroids.



Linda Bradley, MD
Professor of Surgery and Director of Hysteroscopic Education, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University;
Vice Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health Institute, Cleveland Clinic

Linda Bradley is Professor of Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University and Vice Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health Institute at the Cleveland Clinic. She is also the Director of Hysteroscopic Education for the Residency Program at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Dr. Bradley is an internationally recognized gynecologic surgeon known for her expertise in diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy, endometrial ablation, alternatives to hysterectomy, hysteroscopic sterilization, and the evaluation of abnormal uterine bleeding. Her clinical work includes Director of the Center for Menstrual Disorders, Fibroids, and Hysteroscopic Services. She served on the Board of Governors at the Cleveland Clinic from 2006 to 2010. Dr. Bradley was President of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists from 2010 to 2011.

Dr. Bradley's expertise in endometrial ablation technology makes her an innovative leader in the field of hysterectomy alternatives. She recently was involved in several multicenter clinical trials involving endometrial ablation, uterine fibroid embolization compared to abdominal myomectomy, and hysteroscopic sterilization procedure. She performed one of the first hysteroscopic sterilization procedures in this country in 2000. With over 1,000 referrals for uterine fibroid embolization (UFE), she maintains an excellent collaborative practice with the interventional radiology department for a UFE Fibroid Registry database.

Dr. Bradley has published extensively and presented internationally on this topic. Most recently, she is a co-author on an authoritative textbook, *Hysteroscopy: Office Evaluation and Management of the Uterine Cavity*, published by Elsevier in 2009. She is also a contributor to Up-to-Date, an online educational service for physicians. Recently, she was selected to be an advisor

to Medscape.



Keshia Cheeks, MPA, JD
Patient Advocate

Keshia Cheeks has 10 years of broad-based experience in legislative affairs, federal and state budgeting, legal research, and writing. She is a uterine fibroid survivor.



Edward Evantash, MD
Medical Director and Vice President of Medical Affairs
Hologic

Edward Evantash became the Medical Director and Vice President of Medical Affairs at Hologic in 2009. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, where he directed the medical student clerkship and was the division chief of general obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Evantash also founded and directed the Center for Abnormal Uterine Bleeding at Tufts. He received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed a residency in gynecology and obstetrics at Johns Hopkins.



Deborah Bradley Kilstein, RN, MBA, JD
Vice President for Quality Management and Operational Support
Association for Community Affiliated Plans

Deborah Bradley Kilstein serves as the Vice President for Quality Management and Operational Support at the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), an association of non-profit health plans that are predominantly Medicaid- and Medicare-focused. In this role, Ms. Kilstein is responsible for developing the quality agenda for the Association, including positions on quality issues, quality improvement initiatives, research on quality in ACAP plans, and implementation of ongoing plan training and networking opportunities. She also represents ACAP on various advisory committees.

Prior to joining ACAP, Ms. Kilstein served in various leadership positions at the New Jersey Department of Human Services, including Medicaid Director and Deputy Commissioner, in which she managed the provision of social services for more than one million New Jersey residents. She has also worked at the Center for Health Care Services and Horizon NJ Health, an ACAP member plan. She has a BSN from The College of New Jersey, an MBA from Temple University, and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Camden.



Cynthia Casson Morton, PhD
William Lambert Richardson Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology and Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School
Director of Cytogenetics Laboratory, Biomedical Research Institute, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Cynthia Casson Morton is the William Lambert Richardson Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology and Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, as well as Director of the Cytogenetics Laboratory and Past Director of the Biomedical Research Institute at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Morton is certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics in PhD Medical Genetics, Clinical Cytogenetics, and Clinical Molecular Genetics. Her research interests are in molecular cytogenetics, hereditary deafness, genetics of uterine leiomyomata, and human developmental disorders. She has published more than 260 original articles.

Dr. Morton is a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Medical Genetics (ABMG), where she served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of the Accreditation Committee. She was the Chair of the Molecular Genetic Pathology Policy and Exam Committees of ABMG and the American Board of Pathology. She served as Member and Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and as Member and Chair of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. Dr. Morton is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Human Genetics and, most recently, completed a six-year tenure as Editor of *The American Journal of Human Genetics*.

Dr. Morton is currently a member of the Counsel of Scientific Trustees of the Hearing Health Foundation and Chair of the Veteran's Administration Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee. She is President-elect of the American Society of Human Genetics and will serve as President in 2014. Dr. Morton received her BS from the College of William and Mary in Virginia and her PhD in Human Genetics from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond.



Evan R. Myers, MD, MPH
Walter L. Thomas Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Duke University

Evan R. Myers is the Walter L. Thomas Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke University, with appointments in the Duke Cancer Institute and the Duke Clinical Research Institute, and an adjunct appointment in the Department of Epidemiology at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina. His primary research interest is in the application of computer simulation models to

address issues of relevance to women's health and women's health policy, including cervical and ovarian cancer prevention and treatment, management of complications of pregnancy, and optimal methods for gynecologic surgery.

Dr. Myers has served as principal or co-investigator on a large number of systematic reviews for AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice program, including reviews of cervical cancer screening, management of post-term pregnancy, management of adnexal masses, PET scanning in gynecologic cancer, genomics tests in gynecologic cancer, assisted reproductive technology, primary prevention of ovarian cancer, and screening for postpartum depression. He served as principal investigator for the data center for the NICHD-funded multicenter Reproductive Medicine Network and on the Steering Committee for Phase III trials of a quadrivalent HPV vaccine. He has recently led reviews for AHRQ and PCORI on the potential application of modeling and value-of-information analysis for research prioritization.

Dr. Myers' fibroids-related work includes serving as principal investigator for the first AHRQ Evidence Report on management of uterine fibroids, principal investigator for the data center for the FIBROID uterine artery embolization registry, and as a co-investigator on an AHRQ-sponsored project to develop a prioritized research agenda for comparative effectiveness research in fibroids. Dr. Myers has also served as a member of the DSMB for an industry-sponsored Phase III trial of a medical treatment for fibroids and has served as a consultant in developing patient-reported outcomes for medical treatments for fibroids.



Sergio Rimola, MD
National Hispanic Health Foundation; Associate Clinical Professor, George Washington University; Clinical Physician

Sergio Rimola is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and has more than 25 years of clinical experience in private practice. Dr. Rimola is also an Associate Clinical Professor at George Washington University and holds an academic position with Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a member of American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the National Hispanic Medical Association.



Jeffrey M. Rothenberg, MD, MS
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Indiana University

Jeffrey M. Rothenberg is an Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at Indiana University. He is also a graduate of Indiana University. He received a master's degree in biophysics from the

Weizmann Institute of Science and medical degree from the Sackler School of Medicine; he completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Northwestern University in Chicago. Dr. Rothenberg is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



James Spies, MD

**Fellow, Society of Interventional Radiology Foundation;
Professor and Chair in the Department of Radiology at
Georgetown University Hospital**

James Spies is Professor and Chair in the Department of Radiology at Georgetown University Hospital. Dr. Spies has an active practice in uterine embolization for fibroids and has performed extensive research in the procedure. Recognized as an international authority on the procedure, he has more than 100 published scientific studies, has given more than 250 invited presentations, and has edited a text on uterine embolization. He continues to actively research uterine embolization and also measuring outcomes for various fibroid therapies.

Dr. Spies is a Fellow of the Society of Interventional Radiology and the American College of Radiology and has served on numerous national committees for both organizations. He currently serves as Secretary of the Society of Interventional Radiology.

After attending Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Spies completed a radiology residency at the University of California, San Francisco, and a fellowship at New York University School of Medicine in vascular and interventional radiology. He served four years in the United States Air Force. After military service, he was in private practice for several years before joining the faculty of Georgetown University in 1997.



**Sateria Venable
Founder
The Fibroid Foundation**

Sateria Venable is an inventor and a women's health advocate who was originally diagnosed with uterine fibroids in 1996. Because of her experience suffering with fibroids, she began a quest for information, which led her to found The Fibroid Foundation. Preserving her fertility and having quality of life became her primary concern. Unfortunately, she soon discovered that there were limited resources and information available to women, who, like her, had severely symptomatic fibroids.

Ms. Venable researched physicians to find trusted, open-minded medical consultants. Additionally, she sought holistic professionals who have provided a

storehouse of information to assist her in her quest. Frustrated by the return of fibroids after three surgeries, she was determined to find answers. Over the years, she has learned to listen to her body and to allow it to guide her. This awareness has led to major nutrition and lifestyle changes.

Most recently, she patented designs for undergarments to help women with heavy flow issues and those in need of incontinence protection. She launched an undergarment company to bring her designs to the consumer marketplace. Her goal is to grow The Fibroid Foundation into a life-enhancing resource to the millions of women with fibroids and a catalyst to bring attention to more holistic solutions to women's health.



Hope Waltman
Founder
Hope for Fibroids

Hope Waltman was diagnosed with uterine fibroids in July 2001. Two months later, she underwent uterine artery embolization to treat her fibroids. In 2002, she founded Hope for Fibroids to help women and families with their research questions. Since then, she has worked on projects with interventional radiologists and gynecologists who are known around the world. She has also published 16 articles and moderated the Uterine Fibroid Women's Health Forum for six years. In addition, Ms. Waltman was a peer reviewer for "Management of Uterine Fibroids: An Update of the Evidence," published by AHRQ in 2007, has been interviewed by *MORE* magazine, has worked on projects with *The Wall Street Journal* and *Essence*, and wrote an article published in *The UnHysterectomy*.

PCORI Program Staff, Treatment Options for Uterine Fibroids



Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, MSHS
Program Officer, Improving Healthcare Systems

Kara Odom Walker is the Program Officer for Improving Healthcare Systems. Dr. Walker joined PCORI from the University of California, San Francisco, where she was Assistant Clinical Professor in Family and Community Medicine and spent her time seeing patients in a primary care setting, teaching medical students and residents, and pursuing health services research. Her research centered on improving health care delivery through integrated care, with a special interest in vulnerable populations. In particular, she developed new survey measures to assess the patient experience of integrated care while on faculty at UCSF. During her fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at University of California-Los Angeles, she designed and conducted a survey of South Los Angeles older residents to understand the effect of closure of a large safety net hospital and worked with community partners to provide policy recommendations to reopen the hospital. During that time, she was trained in

community-based participatory research methods and obtained a Master of Science in Health Services.

Dr. Walker completed her Family and Community Medicine residency at University of California-San Francisco/San Francisco General Hospital. She is also a graduate of Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health with a Master of Public Health, with a concentration of Health Policy and Management. She earned her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware. In medical school, she served the Student National Medical Association as National President, focusing on policy, research, and leadership training for the pipeline of physician workforce diversity.



Celeste Brown, MPH
Project Associate, Stakeholder Engagement

Celeste Brown is a Project Associate for Stakeholder Engagement. In this role, she manages the interests of those with a stake in the research PCORI funds, from physicians to policy makers alike. Brown's experience includes social media outreach and strategy, health policy research, and training and education in youth leadership development programs.

Ms. Brown earned her MPH at The George Washington University. Her M.P.H. concentration in Community-Oriented Primary Care relates to her career interests in minority health and health systems improvement. Her research evaluated a quality improvement initiative for pediatric weight management at the Children's National Medical Center. She served as President of the Black Public Health Student Network and set record conference attendance and national exposure for the organization. She was a student representative for the School of Public Health and Health Services at campus and district-wide events, and she advised numerous undergraduates in her role as a Graduate Fellow for GWU's Center for Student Engagement. A native of South Florida, Ms. Brown completed her BA in Legal Studies at the University of Central Florida.



Sarita Wahba, MS, HFS
Program Associate, Science Team
Sarita Wahba is a Program Associate for the Science Team. She has nearly 10 years of experience as a health and fitness specialist and is interested in chronic disease prevention research. Most recently, she served as a Research Assistant for food-system related issues at the Center for a Livable Future. Prior to her transition into the field of health, Ms. Wahba worked on Wall Street as a NASDAQ trader for several years.

Ms. Wahba is completing a master's degree at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg

School of Public Health in health policy and public health informatics. She also holds an MS in Exercise Science from Brooklyn College and a BS in Finance from State University of New York—Binghamton.



Natalie Wegener

Program Coordinator, Science

Natalie Wegener is a Program Coordinator for the Science Team. She is responsible for providing coordination within the team, as well as across departments, on multifaceted projects, ensuring that work is on target and streamlined and that teams are connected, aware, and striving to operate with high efficiency. She also provides project management support as needed, by developing timelines and developing and executing strategic initiatives.

Previously, Ms. Wegener worked for DAI on a stability project as a part of the counter terrorism joint-effort with the Department of Defense, Department of State, and AFRICOM, which engaged civilians and militaries across the Sahel region in trainings to promote shared learning and further civilian military engagement. She has also worked at the Aspen Institute on the Ascend Project, aimed at moving single-parent families beyond poverty by implementing a dual-generation approach with a three-tiered strategy focusing on education, economic opportunities, and social capital, and for the Environment Group at Pew Charitable Trusts.

Ms. Wegener holds a BA in International Relations and French and a minor in Comparative Politics from George Mason University.

Tomica Singleton

Senior Administrative Assistant