



2019 Proposed Slate Medical Review Board

Position	Candidate Name	Facility	Affiliation	Personal Statement
Nephrologist (4 Positions Open)	Andres Serrano, MD*	Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical District Home	Independent	<p><i>My name is Andres Serrano. I completed my training in Nephrology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in 2007, and since then I have been practicing at Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago. I practice general Nephrology, but I have a special interest for Home therapies, specifically peritoneal dialysis. I am currently the Medical Director for Mount Sinai Hospital Hemodialysis unit and the Medical Director for Medical District Home Dialysis. I work for an underserved community that struggles with complicated economical and social problems. The lack of resources and social support make this community susceptible to chronic medical conditions, which is reflected in the high prevalence of kidney disease. Over the years I have learned how to practice Nephrology balancing with these intricate social challenges. In the year 2017, I was elected to the Medical Review Board of ESRD Network 10 and for the last two years I have actively participated in the quality initiatives that the Renal Network 10 has undertaken. During this term I learned and have been amazed by the importance of the Renal Network 10 for the dialysis community. I am looking to extend my participation at the Medical Review Board for another period. My goal during the next term is to provide my experience and knowledge</i></p>

				<i>to help in the implementation of all the Renal Network 10 initiatives.</i>
Nephrologist (4 Positions Open)	Anuradha Wadhwa, MD*	Loyola and Hines VA	Loyola	<i>It is with great enthusiasm that I apply for the position of ESRD Network 10 Medical Review Board member. I have been practicing Nephrology in Chicago area for over a decade, currently as Associate Professor of Medicine (Division of Nephrology) at Loyola University Medical Center and Hines VA Hospital. Loyola has an independent not for profit dialysis unit and Hines VA is one of the premier VAs in the country providing dialysis to veterans. Currently, I am the Director of Dialysis Unit at Hines VA. While patient care is integral part of my role, this position also involves training and education of medical students, residents and nephrology trainees. Over the years, I have led and participated in several quality improvement projects including– disaster preparedness, phosphorus control, heparin use in dialysis patients. Most of this work has been presented at National Society meetings (ASN). Providing the best patient care to improve quality of life for kidney patients is very integral to my goal of empowering and advocating for my patients. Talking to patients, I sensed a great need to build a strong community for patients with kidney disease. This led to the foundation of the first support group for kidney patients in Chicago area (2013) where patients come together, talk, learn and support each other. Being a member ESRD network 10 for almost 6 years as part of learning and action network committee and Patient advisory council has provided me the opportunity to interact with patients in non-medical settings and hear their perspectives about their health and care. Since my association with ESRD Network, I presented webinar on “Treatment Options for Renal Failure”, webinar on “Home Dialysis” for the American Association of Kidney Patients and participated in webinar for “Support Groups in Chicago”. Working with Network 10 has given me the opportunity to</i>

				<i>provide input regarding quality initiatives for dialysis patients. ESRD Networks mission of improving quality of care for patients with renal disease aligns well my goal of providing holistic care to patients. To that end, I look forward to an opportunity of serving on Medical Review Board for Network 10.</i>
Nephrologist (4 Positions Open)	Rakhi Khanna, DO, FASN	FKC Waukegan and Gurnee	Fresenius Kidney Care	<i>I have had the pleasure to participate in the Networks activities including part of the Medical Review Board from 2016 to 2018. During these years I learned more about the networks rigorous tasks including the tedious and detailed data collection work. At this time, I would like to be considered to return to the Medical Review Board as I wish to be involved in the tasks the network takes on. While I think the networks focus on access creation, maintenance and infection control should continue; we will also need to focus more on home therapies and transplantation. Home therapies and transplantation will not be possible without more patient education and engagement. We will need to remove the fear associated with home dialysis, provide more psychological support. Barriers in transplantation for our patients will need more attention. Above tasks will require the network to be more visible and be a daily part of the patient's life. I have been a practicing community nephrologist and a medical director for greater than 13 years. My patients have helped me understand the difficulties and challenges faced by them. I hope to bring this expertise to the board.</i>
Nephrologist (4 Positions Open)	Nicole Stankus, MD, MSc	Davita Stoney Island	Davita	<i>I am an academic nephrologist and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago, taking care of a large outpatient population of in-center hemodialysis patients for 19 years (census about 155 patients); also serving as a Medical Director of previously independent, now a DaVita -affiliated</i>

				<p><i>dialysis center on the South Side of Chicago for the same period of time. I am acutely aware of the challenges that ESRD patients and providers are facing, especially in the light of new Executive Order on Advancing Kidney Care issued in July 2019. There is an emerging need of advancing ESRD network position and re-aligning its function with the goals of the new focus on kidney care. I have served on the CMS DFC Star Rating Technical Expert Panel in 2015, 2017 and 2019 and I believe I could bring some additional expertise to the Medical Review Board.</i></p>
<p>Administrator (1 Position Open)</p>	<p>Kara Thomas, RN*</p>	<p>Springfield East</p>	<p>Fresenius Kidney Care</p>	<p><i>I have been a registered nurse for 12.5 years, a dialysis nurse for 10 years, and a clinical manager for the last three years. I have experience in all dialysis modalities. I spent four years of my dialysis nursing career as a travel nurse; during that time, I learned much about dialysis and found my niche in the nursing world. I was fascinated by all types of dialysis and the complexity of the renal patient. I learned something new at each job placement and I was fortunate to meet friends and colleagues from all over the country. In 2016, I was ready to establish some roots and stop traveling. I was confident in my dialysis experience and excited to take on the role of clinical manager. In the role, I learned about the bigger picture of what we do for our patients through the quality improvement process. I was amazed to see the impact we can have on our patients when we keep quality as our focus. It was exciting to watch my clinic grow and improve from a three-star clinic to a five-star clinic. This year I have had the opportunity to open a new dialysis clinic in Springfield, IL, which has been both challenging and rewarding. When I was asked to join the Renal Network Medical Review Board last year, I was very excited at the chance to be a part of something that has such a big impact on the dialysis community. I feel very</i></p>

				<i>fortunate to have been a part of the Renal Network MRB for the past year, and I would like to be considered for a full term.</i>
Dialysis Nurse (1 Position Open)	Catherine Colombo, RN	Mt. Sinai	Independent	<i>I am seeking election to the Medical Review Board to have an opportunity to give back to the renal community. I have served on the MRB and BOD in the past and have found the work that is done in this forum to be personally satisfying and beneficial to the patients we serve. I have many years of renal nursing experience that covers all modalities and roles in a dialysis facility. I appreciate your consideration for my election to the Medical Review Board</i>
* Denotes Incumbent				