David J. Ballard, MD, MSPH, PhD, FACPMedical Director, Critical Care Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program, Johns Hopkins Hospital

In addition to serving as Medical Director, Dr. Dale Needham, is an Attending Physician in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He is also an Associate Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins, the director of the “Outcomes After Critical Illness and Surgery” (OACIS) Research Group, and core faculty with the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. Dr. Needham received his MD from McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in critical care medicine at the University of Toronto and earned his PhD in Clinical Investigation from Johns Hopkins. Dr. Needham serves as a Principal Investigator on a number of NIH research awards and has authored more than 180 publications. His research interests focus on evaluating and improving ICU patients’ long-term physical, emotional, and cognitive outcomes; the impact of critical illness on the areas of sedation, delirium, early physical rehabilitation, and knowledge translation and quality improvement.

Christine K. Cassel, MDPresident and Chief Executive Officer, National Quality Forum

Prior to joining the National Quality Forum, Dr. Christine Cassel served as President and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine. She is a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and co-chair and physician leader of the PCAST working groups that have made recommendations on issues relating to health information technology, scientific innovation in drug development and systems engineering in health care delivery. She was a member of the Commonwealth Fund’s Commission on a High Performance Health System and served on the Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee that wrote the influential reports, To Err is Human and Crossing the Quality Chasm. An Adjunct Professor of Medical and Senior Fellow in the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, Dr. Cassel has also held appointments at the Oregon Health and Science University, Mount Sinai School of Medicine and University of Chicago. Dr. Cassel is a prolific scholar, having authored and edited 14 books and over 200 published articles.

Anne Deutsch, PhD, RN, CRNNClinical Research Scientist, Center for Outcomes Research, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and Senior Research Public Health Analyst, RTI International

Anne Deutsch holds the IRF Quality Reporting Program and Functional Status Quality metric teams at RTI. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Chicago and earned both her master’s degree in Adult Health Nursing and Doctorate in Epidemiology and Public Health from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Deutsch has held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and today serves as a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of PMR & Institute for Health Stud. Ms. Deutsch has published hundreds of abstracts, articles and book chapters, and has delivered lectures and presentations for conferences and audiences across the country. She is a member of the prestigious President’s Award and Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses.

John F. Duggan, JD, MBASenior Vice President and Senior Counsel, Select Medical

Mr. Duggan represents Select Medical in all matters involving litigation and advising on general risk management, and is a member of Select Medical’s Claims, Quality, and Safety; Quality Initiatives; Executive Risk Management Oversight; Litigation; Government Affairs; Research Steering; Compliance and HIPAA committees. He also oversees SMI’s claims involving the organization’s Inpatient Rehabilitation, Outpatient and Contract Therapy divisions. In addition, he serves in a consulting role as Secretary to the Quality of Care and Patient Safety Committee of the Board of Directors of Select Medical. Mr. Duggan holds an undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame, an MBA in Strategic Planning and Marketing from the University of Pittsburgh, and his law degree from Pennsylvania State University. Mr. Duggan is admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and all Pennsylvania common courts. He is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA), Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA), and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM).

Noel Eldridge, MSExecutive Director of Clinical Improvement, Hospital Quality Institute

Noel Eldridge focuses on the analysis and use of data from the Medical Patient Safety Monitoring System that he joined the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in 2009. The Medical PSMS is a joint initiative with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services’ Partnership for Patients program. He previously served as the Executive Officer for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) National Center for Patient Safety (NCPs), where he led the development and pilot testing of the VHA directives for ensuring surgery, preventing retained surgical items, and for improving hand hygiene practices, among other VHA initiatives. A recipient of the National Patient Safety Foundation’s Chairman’s Medal, Mr. Eldridge was also the Director for Scientific Peer Advisory and Review Services for the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and a Study Director at the National Research Council. He began his career at NASA headquarters working on the SpaceLab Life Sciences-1 mission as a Biomedical Engineer for Lockheed. He holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the Cooper Union and a master’s degree in Bioengineering from Clemson University.

Tara McMullen, MPH, PhD(c)Health Analyst, Quality Measurement & Health Assessment Group, Center for Clinical Standards & Quality, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

As a Health Analyst with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Tara McMullen is the cross-setting measurement lead for the Division of Chronic and Post Acute Care, and serves as the measurement lead for the Functional Change measures developed for Inpatient Rehab Facilities, Long Term Care Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Home Health settings. Ms. McMullen has published in the New England Journal of Medicine, The Journal for Geriatrics and Gerontology Education, The Journal of Nursing Measurement, and The International Journal of Aging in Society.

Dale M. Needham, FCPA, MD, PhDMedical Director, Critical Care Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program, Johns Hopkins Hospital

In addition to serving as Medical Director, Dr. Dale Needham, is an Attending Physician in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He is also an Associate Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins, the director of the “Outcomes After Critical Illness and Surgery” (OACIS) Research Group, and core faculty with the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. Dr. Needham received his MD from McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in critical care medicine at the University of Toronto and earned his PhD in Clinical Investigation from Johns Hopkins. Dr. Needham serves as a Principal Investigator on a number of NIH research awards and has authored more than 180 publications. His research interests focus on evaluating and improving ICU patients’ long-term physical, emotional, and cognitive outcomes; the impact of critical illness on the areas of sedation, delirium, early physical rehabilitation, and knowledge translation and quality improvement.

Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)

Bill Pascrell, Jr., was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1996 and is currently serving his ninth term. In 2007, the Congressman was appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee, the oldest committee in the U.S. Congress, which oversees numerous economic issues including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid policy. In 2011, he was selected by his Democratic colleagues to serve on the powerful House Budget Committee, the congressional body responsible for the national budget process. As Founder and Co-chairman of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, Congressman Pascrell has raised the nation’s awareness of the dangers of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and has worked to ensure that our service members are properly screened, diagnosed and treated. He also won passage of the Concussion Treatment and Care Tools (ConTACT) Act, which called for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines and protocols for the management and treatment of sports-related concussions for the benefit of the nation’s student athletes. Congressman Pascrell earned a bachelor’s degree in Journalism and a master’s in Philosophy from Fordham University, began his career as a high school history teacher.

Mary Pratt, MSN, RNDirector, Division of Chronic and Post Acute Care, Quality Measurement and Health Assessment Group, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)

Mary Pratt is responsible for leading the Agency’s health assessment instrument development and performance measurement activities for care settings including dialysis facilities, nursing homes, hospices, home health agencies, inpatient rehabilitation facilities and long term care hospitals, as well as the development of data items for post-acute care assessment instruments. The work in her division, which is part of the Agency’s developing quality reporting and value-based purchasing purposes, provides consumers with quality information to make informed choices when selecting providers of post-acute care services and enables clinicians and providers to use these measures for quality improvement. Ms. Pratt oversees the development of policies and implementation of three new-quality reporting programs authorized by Section 3004 of the Affordable Care Act: Long Term Acute Care, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility and Hospice. She also manages two public reporting websites, “Dialysis Facility Compare” and “Home Health Compare,” and their transition to star ratings. Ms. Pratt, has been with CMS since 1985, is a graduate of George Mason University School of Nursing and earned a master’s degree in Mental Health Nursing from the University of Virginia.

Patricia Quigley, PhD, MPH, ARNP, CRNN, FAANFAAN Associate Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network 8 (VISN 8), Patient Safety Center of Inquiry

Dr. Pat Quigley serves as the Associate Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network 8 (VISN 8) Patient Safety Center of Inquiry, a system of eight Joint Commission-accredited medical centers and 48 associated hospitals across Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. As the Associate Chief of Nursing for Research, she is also a funded researcher with the Research Center of Excellence: Maximizing Rehabilitation Outcomes at the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital, in Tampa, FL. Dr. Quigley leads an interdisciplinary clinical team in the development of evidence-based assessment tools and clinical guidelines related to assessing veterans’ risk for falls and fall-related injuries across multiple medical centers. She provides ongoing consultation to VISN 8 staff, quality management and safety coordinators on the management of patients at risk for falls. Dr. Quigley, who has held numerous administrative, clinical and research positions in the field of rehabilitation, began a sustained research program in fall prevention and management that has helped to shape the science by creating a model for clinical fall teams to establish interventions and best practices.

Bonnie Zell, MD, MPHExecutive Director of Clinical Improvement, Hospital Quality Institute

Prior to joining the Hospital Quality Institute (HQI), Dr. Bonnie Zell was the Strategic Advisor of Community Health for Contra Costa County (California), where she provided leadership in the development of a regional community health initiative focused on achieving the “Triple Aim” – population health, better care and lower cost per capita. She has also held a number of key positions with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and was Senior Director of Population Health for the National Quality Forum (NQF). Dr. Zell’s extensive clinical experience includes appointment as Medical Director for the Aurora Women’s Health Pavilion and Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology for Kaiser Permanente. She is a graduate of the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine and earned a master’s in Public Health from Harvard. She holds a bachelor’s degree from California State University-Fresno and a master’s from UC Berkeley in nursing. Dr. Zell is widely published in areas of women’s health, health reform, and population health and quality improvement.

Carolyn C. Zollars, MDSenior Advisor and Public Health Analyst, Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Prior to joining AMRPA in 2001, Carolyn Zollars was Vice President for Policy and General Counsel for the American Rehabilitation Association (formerly the National Association of Rehabilitation Facilities). She has worked for both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and as a consultant to the White House, as well as having a role in the Senate Finance Committee. She currently co-chairs the National Rehabilitation Caucus, a coalition of over 50 rehabilitation professional, consumer and provider organizations. Widely recognized for her expertise on legislative, regulatory, strategic planning, policy development and advocacy issues, Ms. Zollars is involved in Medicare’s project on “Developing an Outpatient Therapy Payment Alternative,” the National Institutes on Disability and Rehabilitation Research Research project on “Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and Effectiveness;” the Health Services Research Project on Measurement-related data and methods used in the National Outpatient Nursing Care Quality Survey. Ms. Zollars, who holds a bachelor’s degree from Smith College and a master’s from Columbia University, earned her law degree from American University.