

June 6, 2011

Ms. Karen Brooks
AHRQ
540 Gaither Rd.
Room 2006
Rockville, Maryland, 20850
Via Email

Dear Ms. Brooks,

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Council of Academic Family Medicine, I am delighted to offer the names of three outstanding individuals as candidates for the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality. Attached to this letter are their curriculum vitae.

We believe that family physicians should be represented on the National Advisory Council for a number of reasons. Family physicians have a comprehensive and continuing relationship with their patients. Nearly one in four of all office visits are conducted by family doctors. That is 208 million office visits each year – nearly 83 million more than the next largest medical specialty. Today, family physicians provide more care for America's underserved and rural populations than any other medical specialty. In our increasingly fragmented world of health care, family physicians are dedicated to treating the whole person, across the full spectrum of conditions, setting and ages.

In particular, we have sought candidates who fulfill the criteria outlined in the *Federal Register* notice, specifically, individuals who are expert in the "conduct of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations of health care, in the fields of health care quality research or health care improvement," and family physicians who have done research on priority populations.

It is with those criteria in mind that we offer the following outstanding candidates for your review.

Bruce Nedrow Calonge, MD, MPH (Ned)

Dr. Calonge is President and CEO of the Colorado Trust, a grantmaking foundation whose goal is to achieve access to health care for individuals in that state. In addition, Dr. Calonge is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the Department of Family Medicine at the Colorado School of Medicine at the University of Colorado. He also serves as Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health.

Dr. Calonge's professional activities have focused on public health and prevention activities. He has been chair of the US Preventive Services Task Force and on the Colorado Prevention Center Board of Directors. Between the years of 2002 – 2010, Dr. Calonge was the Chief Medical Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment. This position required him to supervise all health related divisions of the state's Department of Public Health and Environment, including the Office of Health Disparities and Preventive Services Division. Other activities have included serving on the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson/Kellogg Foundation project, "Turning Point for Public Health in America," and on the Scientific Advisory Committee for Partnership for Prevention/Centers for Disease Control Project, "Prioritization of Clinical Preventive Services." Dr. Calonge is the author of numerous publications focusing on issues such as community-based breast cancer screening; HIV screening; and extending health maintenance organization insurance to the uninsured. Dr. Calonge is the recipient of numerous authors and awards.

Perry Dickinson, MD

Perry Dickinson, M.D., is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Dickinson is currently the Immediate Past-President of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) and has recently served as President of the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG), Chair of the Council of Academic Family Medicine, and President of the Board of Directors of the Annals of Family Medicine.

Dr. Dickinson has worked on multiple studies investigating the process of practice improvement and redesign, particularly focusing on methods for supporting practice improvement and the implementation of clinical guidelines in primary care practices, the impact of practice organizational features on practice change efforts and the use of elements of the Chronic Care Model and the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model in primary care practices. He leads the Colorado Family Medicine Residency PCMH Project, which assists all ten residency programs in the state in implementing the PCMH model in their practices and curricula. He also is involved in projects related to mental and behavioral health issues in primary care and developing health information technology tools to support aspects of patient self-management support and health behavior change. He has been a member of two AHRQ Committees, including the AHRQ Practice Based Research Network Steering Committee and the AHRQ Expert Working Group on Practice Facilitation. He has also served two AHRQ review panels, most recently chairing the review panel for the "Infrastructure for Maintaining Primary care Transformation (IMPACT)-Support for Models of Multi-sector, State level Excellence" MOA.

Norm Oliver, MD

Dr. Oliver is the incoming Chair, Chair of Family Medicine, University of Virginia School of Medicine. Other academic appointments Dr. Oliver has held have included being named associate professor in the Departments of Family Medicine, Public Health Science and Anthropology at the University of Virginia and the Associate Dean for Diversity. Dr. Oliver's professional affiliations include membership in the International Society for Equity in Health and the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Oliver's focus in his research has been in studying health inequities, particularly as it affects racial and ethnic minorities. Currently, his research interests lie in the area of improving the understanding of the role of racial discrimination, bias, and prejudice in establishing and maintaining these health inequities and the understanding of the interplay between race and socioeconomic position in these disparities. He also is dedicated to improving our nation's understanding of racial and ethnic health disparities and developing effective interventions to reduce or eliminate them. His current research uses psychometric instruments that objectively measure unconscious racial bias and investigates the effect of such biases on clinical decision making. Dr. Oliver's other work makes innovative use of spatial epidemiologic methods, including geographic information systems technology and spatial statistics. Dr. Oliver serves as a member of the executive Committee at the Virginia Institute for Clinical and Translation Research and is a member of the Diversity Council.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these individuals for consideration for nomination to the National Advisory Council.

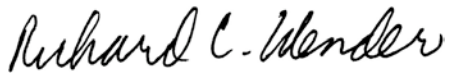
Sincerely,



Jeri Hepworth, PhD
President
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine



Joseph Gravel, MD
President
Association of Family Medicine
Residency Directors



Richard Wender, MD
President
Association of Departments of
Family Medicine



Roland A. Goertz, MD, MBA
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Jeannie Haggerty, PhD
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