



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

April 10, 2014

Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller  
Government Accountability Office  
Attention: PCORI Methodology Committee Appointments  
441 G Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 110,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, appreciates the opportunity to nominate the following four family physicians for consideration for the four vacancies on the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Methodology Committee which is responsible for developing and updating methodological standards and guidance for the conduct of patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER). Our nominations are in response to the [notice](#) published in the March 14, 2014 *Federal Register*. The AAFP is pleased to nominate the following:

**Theodore G. Ganiats, MD**, is the Executive Director of the University of California San Diego Health Services Research Center and Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine. His work with patient-centered methodology ranges from method development, research, and application. Dr. Ganiats' methods experience includes the co-development of a general quality of life instrument (QWB-SA) and mixed methods research on quality of life assessment and patient time preference. His collaborative mixed methods research has included colleagues from anthropology, cognitive science, economics, psychology, and sociology on such topics as patient preference assessment, person-level quality of life assessment, shared decision making, and disparities. He represented the AAFP at the National Quality Forum's Expert Panel Workshops on Patient Reported Outcomes. His practice has been a test site for the Foundation for Shared Decision Making. In addition, he has worked on over 50 clinical guidelines and performance measures where he advocates for the inclusion of patient preferences and patient-centered outcomes. To this end he has worked on ways to better implement these guidelines and measures into clinical practice, including patient toolkits. This work led to invitations to speak at international meetings (e.g., ISOQOL Conference on Patient Reported Outcomes in Clinical Practice (Budapest - 2007) and the Guidelines International Network conference (Chicago – 2010, where he spoke on patient involvement in the guideline process). Dr. Ganiats has health policy experience in California, the broader US, Great Britain, and Germany.

His research center performs program evaluations of medical and psychiatric care in Los Angeles and San Diego counties; a major part of these assessments is based on patient-

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centered outcome evaluations. The Center also collaborates or leads a variety of health services research as well as being the statistical coordinating center for 2 federal projects with a total budget of over \$50 million involving 13 centers in 4 countries. His teaching includes master's-level courses in health services research and a course on quality and outcomes in patient care. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2006.

**Carlos Roberto Jaén, M.D., Ph.D.** is the Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science, San Antonio. He is also Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Health Science Center. He is the current holder of the Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly Distinguished Professorship in the Patient-Centered Medical Home at the same institution. Dr. Jaén's research interests focus on improving preventive care for individuals of all ages and preventing complications from chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. He is passionate about building and studying high performance primary care offices. He served on the panels that published smoking cessation guidelines in 1996 and 2000 and was Co-Chair of the panel that published an update in May 2008. In 2005, he was appointed to the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). He was Co-Director of the Center for Research in Family Medicine and Primary Care. The Center studied more than 500, mostly independent, primary care practices during the last 20 years. Dr. Jaén has his Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health from the State University of New York (SUNY) Buffalo, and his M.D. from the same university. He also has an M.S. in Oncology. He received a Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a Cancer Control Career Development Award for Primary Care Physicians from the American Cancer Society. He is a practicing family physician and has been selected to the Best Doctors in America yearly since 2002. His interests include building a healthier San Antonio through efforts in community wellness. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2013.

**Matthew J. Thompson, MD, MPH, DPhil** is a family physician, clinical researcher and teacher of evidence-based medicine. He has conducted clinical research across multiple clinical areas using qualitative and quantitative designs (including observational studies and RCTs), recruiting over 40,000 adults and children from primary care settings. He has also co-authored 30 systematic reviews of both interventions and diagnostics. Methodologically, he has particular expertise in diagnostic studies, and led the Oxford Center for Monitoring and Diagnosis for 6 years, which included novel methodological areas related to monitoring and diagnosis, including translating results of diagnostic tests for patients, clinical prediction rules, and systematic reviews of diagnostic accuracy studies. He is also involved in new methods to incorporate unpublished trial data in systematic reviews of drugs. He has led evidence syntheses for the USPSTF, served on guideline development groups for the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence in the UK, and the WHO's Non-communicable disease group. He has been an editor in the Cochrane Collaboration's Acute Respiratory Infection group for 6 years. As a teacher, he has been Deputy Director of the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine for 5 years, and taught evidence based medicine and critical appraisal to undergraduate and postgraduate learners to Masters and Doctorate level across multiple clinical disciplines.

**Eric M. Wall, M.D., M.P.H.** is the Senior Medical Director of Qualis Health, a nonprofit healthcare quality improvement organization based in Seattle, WA. He is responsible for supervision of the Medical Services Department and implementing key strategic goals of the

organization. Prior to his current position, Dr. Wall was the Regional Medical Director for LifeWise Health Plan of Oregon and Premera Blue Cross in Alaska. Dr. Wall is a practicing family physician who taught at the Oregon Health and Sciences University for 22 years with appointments in the Department of Family Medicine, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and the School of Nursing. He was Associate Professor and the first Director of Research in the OSHU Family Medicine department between 1985 and 1995.

Dr. Wall received his MD degree from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium and completed his family medicine residency at the University of Miami-Jackson Memorial Hospital. He completed his Masters in Public Health at the University of Washington. His research interests have been in the areas of clinical decision-making, development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines, and evidence-based maternity care.

Dr. Wall has served on the Stakeholder Panel for the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality's Comparative Effectiveness Program and the American Medical Association's Performance Measures and Evaluation Subcommittee. He has participated on numerous guideline development panels and most recently worked on the American Pain Society/American College of Physicians Low Back Pain Guideline Advisory Panel and the American Academy of Otolaryngology /Head and Neck Surgery Guideline Panel for Tonsillectomy in Children. Dr. Wall served as the Chair of the American Academy of Family Physician's Commission on Science from 2005-2007.

We again appreciate the opportunity to provide these nominations and make ourselves available for any questions you might have. Please contact Robert Bennett, Federal Regulatory Manager, at 202-232-9033 or [rbennett@aafp.org](mailto:rbennett@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey J. Cain, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair