

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Appoints New Chair and Vice Chair

Dr. Karina Davidson named as chair; Dr. Michael Barry returns to Task Force as vice chair

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 17, 2021 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) announced today the appointments of Karina W. Davidson, Ph.D., M.A.Sc., as chair and Michael J. Barry, M.D., as vice chair. Carol M. Mangione, M.D., M.S.P.H., will remain in her role as vice chair. Dr. Davidson will assume the role of chair from Alex H. Krist, M.D., M.P.H., who will now serve as the immediate past chair.

“I would like to congratulate Dr. Davidson on her new appointment,” said Dr. Krist. “Her expertise in behavioral and cardiovascular health, deep understanding of the Task Force, and dedication to improving the delivery of care have already greatly contributed to the work of the Task Force. I look forward to seeing what the Task Force will accomplish under her leadership.”

Prior to being named chair of the Task Force, Dr. Davidson was a Task Force member from January 2014 through December 2018 and began serving as vice chair in 2019. She is senior vice president of research, dean of academic affairs, and head of a new center focused on personalized trials at the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research at Northwell Health. Dr. Davidson is also a professor of behavioral medicine at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University/Northwell Health.

Dr. Barry, who served as a member of the Task Force from January 2017 through December 2020, will now return to the Task Force as vice chair.

“The Task Force is pleased to welcome Dr. Barry back as vice chair,” said Dr. Davidson. “His experience in clinical quality improvement, patient engagement, and decision analysis has provided an important perspective to the development of many of our recommendations. I am confident that he will be a valuable addition to our leadership team.”

Dr. Barry is director of the Informed Medical Decisions Program in the Health Decision Sciences Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is also a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a clinician at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The Task Force also recognizes Dr. Krist’s tenure on the Task Force, including his leadership as chair.

“My fellow Task Force members and I would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Krist for his service and dedication,” said Dr. Davidson. “We thank him for his outstanding leadership not only in developing our evidence-based recommendations, but also in furthering our work in areas fundamental to our mission. He has been critical to advancing the Task Force’s efforts to address systemic racism in preventive health. His commitment to shared decision making and bringing recommendations into clinical practice made him an excellent ambassador for the Task Force.”

The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine that works to improve the health of all people nationwide by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications.

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February 2023 clarification: Task Force chairs are appointed by AHRQ.