

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Announces Appointment of Three New Members

WASHINGTON, D.C. – February 21, 2013 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) today announced the addition of three experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine to the panel. The new Task Force members are: Francisco A.R. García, M.D., M.P.H.; William R. Phillips, M.D., M.P.H.; and Michael P. Pignone, M.D., M.P.H.

Like all members of the Task Force, these three health care professionals have been appointed by the director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to serve 4-year terms. New Task Force members are regularly appointed to replace those who have completed their terms. This year's appointees replace outgoing Task Force members Joy Melnikow, M.D., M.P.H.; Carolina Reyes, M.D., M.P.H.; and Timothy J. Wilt, M.D., M.P.H.

“On behalf of my fellow Task Force members, I am pleased to welcome Dr. Francisco García, Dr. William Phillips, and Dr. Michael Pignone to the Task Force,” said Dr. Virginia Moyer, Task Force chair. “All three are practicing clinicians who provide primary care services in their communities and have prior experience developing national healthcare guidelines. Our new colleagues bring a range of valuable expertise in prevention and evidence-based medicine, and we look forward to working with them to fulfill the Task Force’s mission of improving clinical preventive care for all Americans. I also extend my gratitude to Dr. Joy Melnikow, Dr. Carolina Reyes, and Dr. Timothy Wilt for their years of service and contributions to the Task Force’s work.”

The new Task Force members bring a range of experience in prevention and evidence-based medicine, as well as specific expertise that will help the Task Force continue its mission of improving clinical preventive care for all Americans. Dr. Phillips’ work in family medicine includes extensive experience teaching medical students and residents, as well as a proven ability to communicate complex issues in plain language. Dr. Pignone, an internist, has a wealth of expertise in systematic evidence reviews and analytical decision making, the basis of the Task Force’s work. Dr. García’s background in obstetrics and gynecology has included work to improve women’s health and prevent health disparities, helping him bridge the divides between the academic study of health, public health efforts, and community-based medicine. Full professional biographies are available on the Task Force Web site at www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org.

The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. The Task Force works to improve the health of all Americans by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services, such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medicines. More information on the Task Force is available at www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org.

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Contact: Ana Fullmer at Newsroom@USPSTF.net / (202) 350-6668