



American
Heart
Association.

PATIENT REPRESENTATIVES IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

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The Lay Stakeholders in Science and Research Task Force has been elevated to a Subcommittee and renamed the **Patient Engagement in Science and Research Subcommittee**.

The group is now broadly responsible for integrating patient representatives into all aspects of AHA science operations. The term "Lay Stakeholders" has been replaced with "Patient Representatives in Science and Research."

MEET THE 2025 PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE SUBCOMMITTEE



Kathleen T. Linta
Chairperson



Mary Ann
Bauman, MD



Denise
Castille



Mike Coleman,
PhD



Rev. Leroy
Miles



Tania
Saiz



Justin
Wang



Rose
Weis

This year marks a decade of powerful contributions from our Patient Representatives in science and research. Over the past year, these volunteers have played a vital role in bringing patient and community perspectives into the peer-review process — ensuring that scientific advancements remain grounded in the lived experiences of the people they are meant to serve.

In the past year alone, **1,367 peer reviewers evaluated 2,560 funding proposals**. Among them, our Patient Representatives helped elevate patient-centered priorities, strengthen funding decisions, and guide groundbreaking research.

We extend our deepest gratitude to every patient volunteer. Your insight and dedication continue to shape a more inclusive and impactful scientific enterprise. **Thank you for 10 years of impact - and here's to the next decade of discovery, together.**

PATIENTS AT THE HEART OF SCIENCE: ELEVATING PATIENT VOICES AT SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 2025



Kathleen Linta, Charles Michael (Mike) Coleman, and Dr. Mary Ann Bauman—participated in four panel discussions and roundtables on palliative care, cardiovascular risk communication, artificial intelligence, and disparities in vascular care, highlighting how patient engagement is transforming science to be more relevant, compassionate, and impactful.

Throughout the conference, these three patient representatives actively engaged with speakers, moderators, student researchers, meeting attendees, AHA staff, and other stakeholders to champion the mission and increase awareness of the Patient Representative program (formerly known as the Lay Stakeholder program) and its impact.

SESSIONS PANEL HIGHLIGHTS

From Drugs to Diet/Lifestyle: A practical session offering clinicians evidence-based strategies to incorporate lifestyle changes into cardiovascular risk conversations, featuring a live provider-patient interaction.

Building Bridges in Vascular Medicine: A panel addressing disparities in vascular care, representation in clinical trials, and the potential of AI to personalize treatment while tackling implicit bias in PAD care.

Palliative Care in CVD and Stroke: Experts explored the unmet needs and essential components of palliative care for patients and families, emphasizing support across the care continuum.

Cracking the Code: How Data Science and AI at the Bedside is Changing Patient Care - Dr. Mary Ann Bauman served on this compelling panel exploring how data and AI are transforming diagnosis, personalizing treatment, and helping clinicians make faster, smarter decisions—ultimately improving outcomes and patient experiences.



We are proud to recognize the outstanding dedication and expertise of our patient and professional contributors, whose voices have helped shape recent guideline development and other scientific initiatives. Their insights continue to enhance the relevance, clarity, and real-world impact of our science.



Congratulations to the individuals who played a key role in developing these guidelines, ensuring they reflect exceptional scientific rigor and a truly patient-centered perspective:

Karen J. Collins, MBA – contributed to the recently published 2025 High Blood Pressure Guidelines and featured contributor at the 25th Hypertension Scientific Meeting.

Beverly Hess, MSW – Chronic Coronary Disease (CCD) and Peripheral Artery Disease (PPCVD) guidelines contributor.

Heather Baker, EdD – Acute Coronary Syndromes (ACS) and Valvular Heart Disease (VHD) guidelines contributor.

Claudia Mercado – Chronic Kidney Management (CKM) guideline contributor.

J. Bradley Starks, MA – Chronic Kidney Management (CKM) guideline contributor.

Patrick O. Gee Sr, PhD – Chronic Kidney Management (CKM) guideline peer reviewer.

Kathryn Osteen PhD RN CMSRN CNE - Adults with Congenital Heart Defect (ACHD) guideline contributor.

PATIENT VOICE & ENGAGEMENT CHAMPIONS

These contributors went above and beyond, ensuring the patient perspective remained at the heart of every discussion.

Kathleen Linta, BS – instrumental in developing in-depth patient resources tailored to the Atrial Fibrillation guideline.

Regina Johnson, BS – developed the Guideline Key Patient Messages and shared her powerful personal story about stroke for the Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage guideline hub.

Tania Saiz, MA – actively working on Key Patient Messages, engaging in speaking events, and serving as a 2025 Go Red for Women Class of Survivors.

Heather Baker, EdD – developed Key Patient Messages and spoke at the OSM All Staff Meeting about the patient experience for the Acute Coronary Syndromes (ACS) guideline.

Christine Cosby-Gaither, EdD – developed Key Patient Messages and offered valuable suggestions for additional patient materials for the Primary Prevention of Stroke guideline.



Incorporating all stakeholders—researchers, donors, and volunteers—in research activities is one of the Twelve Essential Elements of Research. The American Heart Association’s Research and Science Operations leads the way in including patient representatives in peer review committees, guidelines, and various research initiatives. To learn more about our work visit Professional Heart Daily on the American Heart Association website.

Want to join us? Please contact Elizabeth (Liz) Cooper-Reelhorn, PhD at Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org
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