

2017 Choosing Wisely Champions Nominees

- **Recognize** individual clinicians for their contributions to the campaign;
- **Inspire** other clinicians seeking to implement *Choosing Wisely* in their own practice;
- **Provide** society partners an opportunity to celebrate your members' contributions to the campaign;
- **Demonstrate** how the campaign is driving change in health care; and
- **Help** clinicians learn from one another by highlighting exemplars.



Mayukh Sarkar, Ph.D., MLS (ASCP) ^{CM} mayukh.k.sarkar@gmail.com

University of Texas Medical Branch; Hematology Department

Dr. Sarkar is a Medical Lab scientist working in special coagulation. He recently published a study in the journal *Diagnosis* on Laboratory test utilization - how errors are made by underutilization or overutilization of laboratory tests specific to coagulation test orders. He presented his research at the Diagnostic Management Team Conference held in February 2017 in Galveston, TX and has been invited by Seattle Children's Hospital to present at their Annual PLUGS Summit in June 2017.



Silvia Bunting, M.D. silvia.bunting@choa.org

Children's Hospital of Atlanta

Dr. Bunting is a hematopathologist. During her practice, she has seen many unnecessary tests being ordered in her specialty. In 2013, she proposed to her chief that they needed a test utilization committee to decrease the inefficiency of the testing. She was tasked to start the committee thus becoming the co-chair. In the past few years, the committee has made a lot of progress in terms of having physician involvement and implementing practice changes to improve test utilization. One of the changes which will result in a publication is that to decrease the use of FISH MDS for working up a cytopenia patient at her hospital.



Lana Jackson, M.D. ljackson3@umc.edu

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Dr. Jackson is an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is a fellowship trained head and neck surgeon who specializes in surgical treatment of head and neck cancer and disorders of the thyroid and parathyroid glands. She is also the Otolaryngology Residency Program Director. Dr. Jackson and her colleagues perform the majority of the thyroidectomies at our institution. Prior to the initiation of our utilization project, there was no standardized protocol for the monitoring of serum calcium after thyroidectomy. The rationale for testing is that parathyroid dysfunction after thyroidectomy can cause hypocalcemia in up to 50% of patients. Variation in practice and overutilization of labs can lead to increased cost due to the cost of labs, increased time in the OR and increased length of stay (LOS). Without a front-line clinician championing our utilization efforts, the implementation of projects involving testing utilization can be very challenging. It is through partnership and collaboration with physicians like Dr. Jackson that meaningful changes can occur.

Nominated by: Alexandra Brown, M.D., FASP



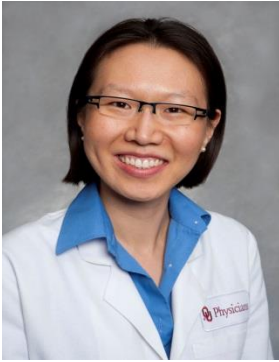
Jack Jordan, MA JJORDAN1@hfhs.org

Henry Ford Health System

Mr. Jordan is Director of Performance Excellence and Quality at Henry Ford Health System, Detroit. He has consistently gone above and beyond in making the utilization of laboratory services evidence-based, safer and compliant with Choosing Wisely Recommendations. Jack, in his capacity as the past head of Inpatient Analytics and now the director of Quality at Henry Ford Hospital, has been an invaluable information partner. He has constantly guided the laboratory utilization task force (LUTF) towards actionable information derived and collated from multiple data sources. His work and his leadership has enabled us to gain invaluable insight into our laboratory and clinical data.

Nominated by: Gaurav Sharma, M.D., FASCP &

Ilan Rubinfeld, M.D., MBA



Yaolin Zhou, M.D. Yaolin-Zhou@ouhsc.edu

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

After leaving UAB to become a fellow in molecular genetic pathology at the Cleveland Clinic, she joined their Test Utilization Committee, and actively evaluated genetic test orders and developed algorithms based on best practice guidelines. Since joining the faculty at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), her ability to advance dissemination of the Choosing Wisely recommendations that relate to the laboratory among her clinical colleagues has exploded! Dr. Zhou estimates that she has presented to about 630 folks in Oklahoma since July and hopes that she has had a slight impact on the "choosing wisely" culture. Yaolin always wanted to "change the world" and "make the world a better place," but since that is really ambitious, she decided to start smaller by promoting a culture of collaboration and patient-centeredness. As a pathologist, she decided to reach her goals by teaching healthcare value, diagnostic decision-making, and an evidence-based approach to utilization management.

Nominated by: Marisa B. Marques, M.D. &

David Lewin, M.D., FASCP



Meghan Kapp, M.D. meghan.e.kapp@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Meghan Kapp is presently a clinical fellow in Renal Pathology. As a pathology resident and subsequently Chief Resident, she has served as a founding member and co-chair of VUMC's Choosing Wisely (CW) steering committee. This committee brings together house-staff from all specialties for the common goal of providing high-value care to patients across our institution. By educating house-staff and faculty regarding the issue and potential harm of daily labs, encouraging specific discussion of lab results and the need for future labs during rounds, and providing data feedback with peer comparisons, VUMC achieved its goal of <60% of inpatients receiving daily labs. For her work with Choosing Wisely initiatives, she was invited along with Drs. Donald Brady and Wade Iams to present their efforts to the Connecticut Hospital Association and at Grand Rounds for Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, CT. Additionally she was invited to present this work at Grand Rounds for University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville.

Nominated by: Adam Seegmiller, M.D., Ph.D.

Geoffrey Baird, MD, PhD, FASCP gbaird@uw.edu

University of Washington & Harborview Medical Center

Dr. Baird is the residency program director as well as the new Interim Chair of our Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA and the Director of Clinical Chemistry at Harborview Medical Center. He has submitted many of the recent recommendations that were chosen for Laboratory Medicine. He continually works to advance Choosing Wisely in our practice of Laboratory Medicine. He has also built into his institution's curriculum an Informatics project where they each research the usage/utility of a test and most residents present it at a national meeting and/or publish their data. Most of the projects that directly relate to Choosing Wisely campaigns have been submitted/accepted/presented as abstracts.

Nominated by: Ashley Eckel M.D., Ph.D.

Christopher Polage, M.D. christopher.polage@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu

University of California, Davis

Clostridium difficile is one of the most common causes of healthcare-associated infection in United States hospitals and globally. However, indiscriminate testing of minimally symptomatic patients and overly sensitive genomic tests have resulted in massive over diagnosis and overtreatment affecting tens of thousands of patients each year. Dr. Polage's research and publication in JAMA have brought national attention to this issue and contributed to the March 2015 Choosing Wisely recommendation from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) for physicians to 'Avoid testing for a *Clostridium difficile* infection in the absence of diarrhea.' In addition, Dr. Polage is working to develop effective new test strategies to prevent hospital-acquired *C. difficile* infection. His "STOP *C. difficile* Project", funded by a \$2.4M grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, lowered the rate of hospital-acquired *C. difficile* in the 10 participating units at UC Davis Medical Center (UCDMC) by a dramatic 30% over baseline. Dr. Christopher Polage's work and activities in the area of *C difficile* testing exemplify the spirit and intent of the Choosing Wisely campaign.

Nominated by: Lydia Pleotis Howell, M.D.