



# CLINICAL QUALITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## PROGRAM FACULTY

### **Rohit Bhalla, MD, MPH**

Senior Vice President, Clinical Affairs and Quality  
& Chief Clinical and Quality Officer  
Stamford Hospital

Dr. Rohit Bhalla is Senior Vice President, Chief Clinical and Quality Officer, Stamford Health, a not-for-profit health care system in Fairfield County, Connecticut. In this role, Dr. Bhalla is responsible for clinical policy, programs, and affairs. He also oversees organizational care management, hospital medicine, quality, patient safety, research, and other clinical programs. Prior, Dr. Bhalla served at Montefiore Medical Center for more than a decade as Chief Quality Officer. Dr. Bhalla serves on the boards of the America's Essential Hospitals Institute and the Connecticut Hospital Association, and on the Quality Council of the Connecticut State Innovation Model Program. He is Chair of the GNYHA/United Hospital Fund (UHF) Clinical Quality Fellowship Program, and he has served on programs and advisory committees for educational institutions and other health care groups. Dr. Bhalla is Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He has published several papers in the areas of quality improvement (QI) and health policy, is a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Medical Quality and has received public and private funding for research initiatives. Dr. Bhalla received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the Boston University School of Medicine's six-year BA/MD program and his Master of Public Health degree from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Dr. Bhalla completed Internal Medicine residency training at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Public Health/General Preventive Medicine residency training at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and is board certified in both specialties.

### **Nichola Davis, MD**

Vice President & Chief Population Health Officer  
NYC Health + Hospitals

Dr. Nichola Davis is Vice President and Chief Population Health Officer at NYC Health + Hospitals. NYC Health + Hospitals is the largest public hospital system in the country. In this role, Dr. Davis leads the public hospital system's Population Health portfolio, which encompasses innovative care models, population health analytics, chronic disease prevention and management, and social determinants of health. Dr. Davis co-chairs the Equity & Access Council at NYC Health + Hospitals. Previously, Dr. Davis was the Director of Ambulatory Medicine at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx and Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Departments of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, and Epidemiology and Population Health, Division of Behavioral and Nutritional Research, at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She received her Bachelor of Science from Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, her medical degree from New York University, School of Medicine, and completed her residency training in primary care internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center. She obtained a Master of Science in Clinical Research Methods at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2003.

### **Erin DuPree, MD**

Senior Vice President and Physician Executive,  
Quality and Clinical Initiatives  
GNYHA

Erin DuPree is Senior Vice President and Physician Executive, Quality and Clinical Initiatives, for GNYHA. Prior, Dr. DuPree worked as a consultant and was the Chief Medical Officer of The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare and of the Mount Sinai Hospital. She is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist. She holds a medical degree from Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and a Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

## CLINICAL QUALITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM MARCH 16–17, 2023

### **Rajan Gurunathan, MD**

Vice President & Regional Chief Quality Officer,  
Southern Region

Hackensack Meridian Health System

As a board-certified internist with over 20 years of clinical experience, including over 15 years in leadership roles at academic medical centers in Manhattan and the Bronx, Dr. Gurunathan has broad expertise in clinical practice, medical operations, and health care quality management. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Johns Hopkins University, his medical degree from UMD-NJ – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed his residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, followed by a Clinical Quality Fellowship with GNYHA. After serving as Division Chief for Hospital Medicine and for General Internal Medicine, where he developed and implemented strategic plans focused on quality of care metrics and clinical workflow redesign, Dr. Gurunathan joined Hackensack Meridian Health in his current position as Regional Chief Quality Officer for the southern market, where he oversees the region's approach to quality and safety, with emphasis on preventable harm reduction, ongoing performance improvement, and engagement through collaboration and mutual learning.

### **Hillary S. Jalon, MS**

Deputy Chief Quality Officer,  
Office of Quality and Safety

NYC Health + Hospitals

Hillary Jalon is Senior Assistant Vice President at NYC Health + Hospitals' Office of Quality & Safety, with responsibility for developing a cohesive strategy for the rollout of capacity building training in QI across the continuum of services in the system, including the development and implementation of a Quality Academy across the system. She also oversees quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI), including aspects reporting functions as related to the QAPI Committee to the Board. Prior, Hillary was Associate Executive Director of QI at NYC Health + Hospitals' Community Care, which includes home care and health home services, where she was responsible for developing and implementing QI efforts for community-care services. Previously, Hillary was at UHF for 11.5 years, most recently as Director of QI, re-

sponsible for providing the strategic direction for UHF's QI initiatives. She worked in partnership with GNYHA in designing and managing hospital-based QI initiatives across the Greater New York region, including efforts to reduce preventable readmissions and to implement evidence-based interventions to reduce hospital-acquired infections such as *Clostridium difficile*. In this role, Hillary also worked collaboratively with GNYHA and clinical leaders to develop QI leadership training for midcareer physicians and nurses across the region. Prior to joining UHF, Hillary was employed at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital for over six years, including as Manager of Service Improvement and Performance Improvement Specialist. There, she was responsible for managing regulatory surveys, and designing, testing, and implementing QI initiatives with leadership and frontline staff to improve clinical performance for asthma, diabetes, addiction psychiatry, and perioperative services. Hillary serves as adjunct faculty for New York University's Wagner School in Health Policy and Management as an instructor for the Continuous QI course. She received a BA in Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and an MS in Health Administration from Russell Sage College in Rensselaer, NY.

### **Steven Kaplan, MD**

Vice President & Chief Medical Officer,  
Medical & Professional Affairs

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Steven Kaplan currently is Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital with responsibilities for Medical Affairs, Professionalism, and physician leadership for Compliance and Audit. Prior to this role, Dr. Kaplan held various other physician leadership roles throughout the NYP Healthcare System. Dr. Kaplan received his undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his MD from Cornell University Medical College. He trained in Internal Medicine and then spent 18 years as an emergency medicine physician in the emergency department of the Weill Cornell Campus of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

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### **Lorraine Ryan, BSN, MPA, Esq.**

Senior Vice President,  
Legal, Regulatory, and Professional Affairs  
GNYHA

Lorraine Ryan is Senior Vice President, Legal, Regulatory, and Professional Affairs for GNYHA. Ms. Ryan is responsible for oversight of GNYHA clinical regulatory and professional affairs activities, including all QI initiatives and supervision of QI staff. Ms. Ryan is also responsible for monitoring and educating the membership on Federal and state regulatory requirements related to clinical, operational, and quality issues, and accrediting body standards. Additionally, Ms. Ryan provides consultation to member hospitals on risk management, medical staff, and credentialing issues. Ms. Ryan served as the co-project director for the NYS Partnership for Patients, a decade-long clinical improvement initiative sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation. Prior to joining GNYHA, Ms. Ryan held senior hospital administration and management positions and worked as associate counsel in a medical malpractice firm. Ms. Ryan holds a law degree from New York Law School, a Master's in Public Administration from New York University, and a Bachelor of Science nursing degree from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut.

### **Brijen J. Shah, MD**

Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
& Vice President, Medical Affairs  
Mount Sinai Health System

Dr. Shah is a board-certified internist, gastroenterologist, and geriatrician who has focused his career at the intersection of adult learning, QI, and patient safety. Brijen's leadership roles have included serving as the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs for Mount Sinai Queens, the director of GME for faculty development, quality, and patient safety. He continues to serve as the Associate Program Director for the Mount Sinai Hospital Gastroenterology Fellowship. Brijen is a graduate of the Warren Alpert School of Medicine and Beth-Israel Deaconess Medical Center Internal Medicine Residency. Brijen's current work focuses on developing a culture of safety and professionalism, creating systems to enhance provider performance, and working with leadership to better integrate advanced practice providers into

the health care system. Brijen's scholarship is focused on clinical competency assessment and program evaluation for faculty and chief resident training. Brijen has been the recipient of a Hartford Center of Excellence grant and a Hearst Foundation grant to train chief residents in geriatric principles, teaching, and QI. Brijen serves as a QI coach in the VA program to teach QI to rural health care providers. He is a graduate of GNYHA's Clinical Quality Fellowship Program. He is currently working towards his Master's in Education focused on Adult Learning and Leadership at Teachers' College, Columbia University. He has published review articles and textbook chapters on fecal incontinence, constipation, and colon cancer screening in the geriatric population. Outside of work, Brijen enjoys traveling, cooking, and hiking and lives with his husband in New York City.

### **Eric Wei, MD**

Vice President & Chief Quality Officer  
NYC Health + Hospitals

Dr. Eric Wei serves as Vice President and Chief Quality Officer for NYC Health + Hospitals. He was previously Interim Chief Quality Officer and Associate Medical Director for Quality, Safety and Risk for LAC + USC Medical Center. He is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the American Academy of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Wei received his Bachelor's degree in Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology at University of California, Los Angeles, in 2003. He completed the combined MD and MBA program at University of California, Irvine, in 2009. Dr. Wei completed Emergency Medicine residency and the Healthcare Administration Scholars Program at the University of Michigan in 2013, where he also served as chief resident from 2012-13. Dr. Wei is Lean Healthcare certified through the School of Engineering at University of Michigan, Six Sigma Black Belt certified through Villanova University, completed the Patient Safety Executive Training at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and is a TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer. His academic interests include hospital and ED operations, patient flow, QI, patient safety, systems management, lean process improvement, Choosing Wisely, TeamSTEPPS, Second Victim, and Just Culture.