



GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION & UNITED HOSPITAL FUND

CLINICAL QUALITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM FACULTY

Rohit Bhalla, MD, MPH

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

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 oversees clinical affairs, policy, and programs. He also manages 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 also serves on the Board of the America's Essential Hospitals Institute, committees of the Connecticut Hospital Association, and 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 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 on 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.

Jenna Blind, DNP, RN, CPHQ, Alumnus CCRN

Director, Education, Professional Development, and
Quality Improvement
NYU Langone Health

Dr. Jenna Blind began her nursing career after completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Molloy University in New York. Her professional nursing journey began in 2009 as a critical care nurse in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit. Her dedication and expertise soon led to national certification as a Critical Care Registered Nurse. Embracing the evolving landscape of health care, she pivoted to a Clinical Informatics Specialist role in 2013, complementing her skills with a Master of Science degree in Nursing Administration with Informatics. Dr. Blind's commitment to excellence was further evidenced when she assumed the role of Manager in Nursing Quality, playing a pivotal role in steering her organization towards the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet redesignation, a testament to her passion for nursing excellence and QI. She also achieved her credential as a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality.

Dr. Blind's educational journey concluded with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Chamberlain University, an institution that shaped her professional identity. As the Director of Education, Professional Development & QI at NYU Langone Health, she nurtures the professional development of health care professionals. As an Adjunct Professor at Molloy University and a leader in several professional nursing organizations, Dr. Blind is an educator, leader, and lifelong learner. Her involvement with Chamberlain's Phi Pi Chapter of Sigma as the Awards Chair and the New York Organization for Nurse Leaders as a regional chapter Treasurer further underscores her commitment to advancing the nursing profession. Dr. Blind is also a graduate of the Clinical Quality Fellowship Program sponsored by GNYHA and UHF.

Dr. Blind's professional journey has been a blend of professional rigor, educational fervor, and a dedication to quality care, making her an inspirational figure in the world of nursing and health care leadership. Dr. Blind also

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loves coffees from around the world, spending time with her family, and caring for her rescue dogs.

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, 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 & Physician Executive,
Quality and Clinical Initiatives
GNYHA

Dr. 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 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.

Baruch Fertel, MD

Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Baruch Fertel, MPA, FACEP, is Vice President for Quality and Patient Safety at NewYork-Presbyterian. In this role, he leads the Department of Quality and Patient Safety (QPS), providing enterprise leadership around QPS vision, strategic planning, and goals. Prior to joining NewYork-Presbyterian in 2022, Dr. Fertel held leadership roles in quality, operations, and informatics at the Cleveland Clinic. Most recently he served as Enterprise Associate Chief Quality Officer and Director of Operations for Emergency Services across the Cleveland Clinic enterprise. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Clinical Informatics. An award-winning and accomplished academic physician with the rank of Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Dr. Fertel has published more than 90 abstracts, manuscripts, and book chapters, and has made numerous media appearances. He is an Alpha Omega Alpha graduate of the New York University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center/Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Rajan Gurunathan, MD, FACP

Vice President & Regional Chief Quality Officer,
Southern Market
Hackensack Meridian Health

Dr. Rajan Gurunathan, as a board-certified internist with more than 20 years of experience, including more than 15 years in leadership roles at academic medical centers in Manhattan and the Bronx, 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 the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and completed his residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York. After completing a Clinical Quality Fellowship with GNYHA, Dr. Gurunathan served in roles as a Division Chief for Hospital Medicine and General Internal Medicine, where he developed and implemented strategic plans focused on quality of care metrics and clinical workflow redesign, before joining Hackensack Meridian Health in his current position as

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Regional Chief Quality Officer for the southern market. In his current role, 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. He also serves as lead physician for the Hackensack Meridian Health network's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Quality Council and Hospital at Home Program.

Hillary S. Jalon, MS

Vice President, Quality Management,
Office of Quality and Safety
NYC Health + Hospitals

Hillary Jalon is Vice President of Quality Management at NYC Health + Hospitals, overseeing quality assurance, performance improvement, accreditation activities, and implementing a cohesive QI capacity-building infrastructure across the continuum of system services. She has been responsible for implementing a sustainable Quality Academy for clinical and non-clinical staff throughout the system. She oversees the quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI) reporting functions of the QAPI Committee to the Board. Prior, she was Associate Executive Director of QI at NYC Health + Hospitals' Community Care, which includes home care and health home services, where she lead efforts to develop and implement QI efforts for community-care services. Previously, Hillary was at UHF for more than 11 years, most recently as Director of QI, providing the strategic direction for UHF's QI initiatives. She worked with GNYHA to design and manage hospital-based QI initiatives across the Greater New York region, including efforts to reduce hospital-acquired infections and hospital-acquired conditions. In this role, Hillary also worked 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 more than six years. There, she managed regulatory surveys and designed, tested, and implemented QI initiatives with leadership and frontline staff to improve clinical performance for chronic diseases, 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, New York.

Steven Kaplan, MD

Vice President & Chief Medical Officer,
Medical and Professional Affairs
NewYork-Presbyterian

Dr. Steven Kaplan currently serves as Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer for Medical and Professional Affairs for the NewYork-Presbyterian Health System. Prior to this, Dr. Kaplan was the Chief Medical Officer for the Columbia University campuses of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and before that he was the CMO for Ambulatory Care and Patient Experience. 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. Dr. Kaplan was a member of the inaugural class of the CQFP and is excited and proud to continue his partnership with this wonderful program.

Brijen J. Shah, MD, AGAF

Vice President, Medical Affairs
Mount Sinai Health System;
& Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education,
Quality Improvement/Patient Safety and Professor of
Medicine, Geriatrics, Medical Education
Mount Sinai Queens

Dr. Brijen Shah is a board-certified gastroenterologist and geriatrician focused on the intersection of adult learning, QI, and patient safety. Dr. Shah's leadership roles have included serving as the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs for Mount Sinai Queens. His 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. He is a consultant for Mount Sinai International, collaborating on safety and quality projects in China and Guyana. Dr. Shah also serves as a QI coach for the Veterans Affairs Geriatric Scholars Program teaching QI to rural

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health care providers. He is a graduate of GNYHA's Clinical Quality Fellowship Program. Dr. Shah is a graduate of the Warren Alpert School of Medicine, Beth-Israel Deaconess Medical Center Internal Medicine Residency, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai/Mount Sinai Hospital Gastroenterology Fellowship program. Outside work, Dr. Shah enjoys traveling, cooking, and hiking and lives with his husband in New York City.

Eric Wei, MD, MBA

Senior Vice President & Chief Quality Officer

NYC Health + Hospitals

Dr. Eric Wei serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer for NYC Health + Hospitals, the largest municipal safety net health system in the US, serving more than 1.3 million New Yorkers every year. He is a Professor of Emergency Medicine for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Adjunct Professor for the NYU School of Global Public Health. Dr. Wei is the fellowship director for the NYC Health + Hospitals Clinical Leadership Fellowship. He is a practicing Emergency Medicine physician who has rotated through all 11 emergency departments in the system. He serves on the board of MetroPlus Health and as faculty for the GNYHA/UHF Clinical Quality Fellowship Program. Dr. Wei also is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the New York Academy of Medicine. He served as Interim Chief Executive Officer of NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst in 2020 and NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem in 2021. He was the Interim Chief Quality Officer and Associate Medical Director for Quality, Safety, and Risk for LAC + USC Medical Center. Dr. Wei received his Bachelor's degree in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his joint MD and MBA degrees from the University of California, Irvine. He completed his Emergency Medicine residency training and the Healthcare Administration Scholars Program at the University of Michigan.