AUA Staff Liaison  Idrissa Heard

Chair  Matthew E. Nielsen, MD, MS

Terms of Office  Chair: 4 years (non-renewable)
Members: 3 years (renewable once)

Committee Makeup
The voting members of the Science and Quality Council (S&Q Council) shall consist of the chair, approximately 6 members and the chairs of the designated component committees. The chair shall be approved by the Board of Directors for a two-year term (renewable once) and members serve a 3-year term (renewable once). The Health Policy Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member. Component committees include but are not limited to the Practice Guidelines Committee, Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee and Data Committee. (AUAER Bylaws, May 2014)

In addition, every other year an S&Q Fellow is selected in April to serve a 1-year non-voting term (Annual Meeting- Annual Meeting) on the S&Q Council and its subcommittees (PGC, QIPS, and Data). The 2022-23 term will be an exception and the same S&Q Fellow that served during 2020-21 term will also serve on the 2022-23 term due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mission Statement
The Science and Quality Council shall oversee the science, quality and data components of the Association’s mission as requested by the Board of Directors. This includes but is not limited to the development, dissemination, and implementation of guidelines, physician performance measures, patient safety initiatives, registries, and data projects. (AUAER Bylaws May 2014). Additionally, the Council shall provide oversight to the Science & Quality Division.

Component Committees/Work Groups/Panels
Component committees include, but are not limited to: Practice Guidelines Committee (PGC), Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) Committee, Data Committee and Measure Evaluation Panel (MEP).

Committee Meetings
The Science and Quality Council shall have in-person or video teleconference meetings in the Spring, prior to the AUA Annual Meeting and in the Fall, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Contact with committee members via phone calls, video teleconferences and email correspondence shall occur throughout the year on an as needed basis. The Council and committee chairs will meet on a quarterly basis throughout the year. The Council will monitor and provide guidance to S&Q programs to ensure effective and efficient implementation of projects. The Council will review new programs, Guidelines and Clinical Consensus Statements topics, etc. and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Council will be part of peer review and approval process for Guidelines and Clinical Consensus Statements and other documents as required. The Council will serve as an oversight group for vetting members for various panels and workgroups and coordinating conflicts of interest review with the Judicial & Ethics Committee and will provide guidance to the respective S&Q Committees. The Council shall coordinate with other AUA Councils on Science and Quality issues impacting health policy (e.g., AMA resolutions, Legislative Priorities, reimbursement and regulation, etc.).
Time Commitment
Chair: 10 hours per week
Member: Average of 8 hours per month

Qualifications/ Responsibilities
Chair: The Chair is a compensated contracted position.
Members: Committee members should have an interest in or be directly involved in one (or more) of the subject matters covered by the committees that report to the Science and Quality Council or are part of the AUA’s Science and Quality Division’s purview: Practice Guidelines Committee; Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee; and the Data Committee.

Recent Accomplishments 2021

- The Engage with Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (E-QIPS) initiative launched; E-QIPS is a repository of community-sourced, peer reviewed, quality improvement projects for the urologic community.
- The Measure Evaluation Panel assessed face validity and reviewed specifications for AQUA measures as part of the 2022 CMS QCDR self-nomination process for the MIPS program.
- QIPS members approved a conceptual measurement framework to guide future measure development and maintenance efforts.
- AUA Census – Besides the annual publication of the State of Urology Workforce and Practice in the United States, a Census report on AUA domestic member urologists by AUA section was published for the first time.
- AQUA - The AUA has reached multiple milestones, including meeting the annual requirement of gaining 10% of additional AQUA patients to maintain the AUA-Verana Health partnership and surpass 200 urology practices covering more than 2,000 providers in the AQUA Registry.
- Guidelines released three new guidelines on Management of BPH, Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction, and Acute Ischemic Priapism, as well as an amendment on Renal Mass.
- The Guidelines app currently has over 65,000 downloads.
- Guidelines - A list of recently approved Guidelines and amendments is available online.