

QC VISION

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative



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ACHQC VERIFIED SURGEON OF QUALITY PROGRAM

In May 2023, the ACHQC introduced a new program designed to recognize the high quality of surgery that is being performed by surgeons within the Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative. The Verified Surgeons of Quality (VSOQ) program identifies surgeons who have demonstrated the dedication to track their own outcomes and participate in continuous quality improvement. The ACHQC believes that this gives patients the greatest opportunity to obtain a high-quality hernia repair by each provider. Additionally, this distinction will hopefully be important to help surgeons' stand out in their community and nationally for achieving excellence in abdominal core surgery.



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VERIFIED SURGEONS OF QUALITY IN THE NEWS

BOSTON HERNIA SURGEONS RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY COLLABORATIVE

Boston Hernia surgeons were recognized as verified surgeons of quality during Hernia Awareness Month.

BOSTON, MA (PRWEB) - June 29, 2023

The Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative (ACHQC) announced the Verified Surgeon of Quality Program this month, which is fitting as June is Hernia Awareness Month. The ACHQC is a non-profit organization gathering the world's foremost experts on hernia and abdominal wall care all with significant commitment to improving the quality and value of care for patients with hernia or other abdominal wall diseases. This Verified Surgeon program distinguishes particular participating surgeons for their dedication to the organization's mission.

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Mission Health · Follow
May 18 ·

🏆 Western North Carolina is fortunate enough to not only have one, but TWO surgeons that were recently recognized as a ACHQC (Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative) Verified Surgeon of Quality.

Dr. Lindsee McPhail and Dr. Sean O'Connor, of Mission Surgery, were recognized for their dedication to improving the quality and value of healthcare for patients who suffer from hernia disease and diseases of the abdominal wall or core. We are so grateful for their incredible contribution to the community!

Mission Hospital is Western North Carolina's destination for complex hernia care, which offers comprehensive and cutting-edge surgical techniques. To learn more, visit our website at <https://bit.ly/3Mp9gLw>



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Ascension Via Christi · Follow
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Ascension Medical Group hernia specialist recognized by national quality collaborative

Ragnar Peterson, MD, with Ascension Medical Group Via Christi, has been named to the Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative's inaugural list of Verified Surgeons of Quality.

"This is an enormous honor and testament to the hard work of our entire Comprehensive Hernia Center Team," says Peterson. He is one of 35 surgeons out of 442 participating surgeons nationwide to be recognize... [See more](#)



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AMITABH GOEL, MD, FACS, NAMED VERIFIED SURGEON OF QUALITY BY ABDOMINAL CORE HEALTH QUALITY COLLABORATIVE

GENEVA, OH (NEWSWISE) - June 29, 2023

Hernia Awareness Month occurs each year in June, and this year the Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative (ACHQC) is celebrating with the launch of its new Verified Surgeon of Quality Program. Amitabh Goel, MD, FACS, Chair of the Department of Surgery at University Hospitals (UH) Geneva Medical Center, and clinical professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has been recognized by the organization as a Verified Surgeon of Quality.

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**Wright State Physicians** · Follow

June 17 at 9:45 AM · 🌐

Meet Christopher Schneider, MD, FACP, surgeon with [#WrightStatePhysicians](#), currently the only area surgeon recognized a Verified Surgeon of Quality by the Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative.

Dr. Schneider specializes in hernia repair, with expertise in diseases of the GI tract: colon, rectal, hiatal and paraesophageal hernia. Learn more about Dr. Schneider and this recognition <https://bit.ly/46k6BMj>.

Provider Spotlight

Christopher Schneider, MD
Surgeon

 **JUNE | Hernia Awareness Month**

"I believe in balancing patient expectations and desires with treatment options, working with them to accomplish their healthcare goals."



937.245.7200 | wrightstatephysicians.org  Wright State Physicians

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Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative

**2013-2023**
A Decade of Data

VSOQ SPOTLIGHT

Each month, ACHQC spotlights one of our Verified Surgeons for their dedication to improving the quality and value of patient care in their communities. Spotlights are featured on the Verified Surgeon of Quality webpage, in QC Vision and across ACHQC's social media network.

July 2023



Amitabh Goel, MD
UH Geneva Medical Center
Geneva, OH

Hometown: Perry Village, OH

Training:

- Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh - General Surgery
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center - Surgical Critical Care

How long have you been a member of the QC?

- Since its inception 10 years ago

Favorite part about the QC?

- Focus on Outcomes and Value

Hobbies:

- Fitness
- Swimming
- Gardening
- Traveling



August 2023



Hometown: Huntington Beach, CA

Training:

- Clemson University - Undergraduate
- Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston - Medical School
- St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City - Residency
- Interventional Radiology at the University of Minnesota - Fellowship

How long have you been a member of the QC?

- I joined the QC in 2013 because I wanted to be part of research, but the logistics of doing research as a private practice physician was not an option.

Favorite part about the QC?

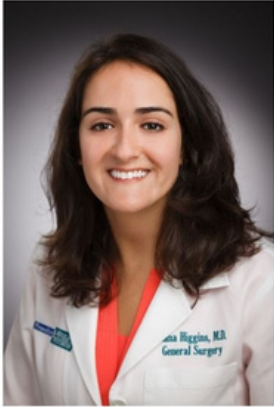
- The QC provides that research component to my practice without the complexities of doing it myself.

Hobbies:

- Endurance activities including triathlons, and a newer interest in over-landing in the surrounding Sierra Nevada Mountains



Todd Harris, MD
California Hernia
Specialists
Newport Beach, CA



Rana Higgins, MD

Medical College of
Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Training:

- Rush and Cook County Hospital in Chicago – General Surgery Residency
- Medical College of Wisconsin – MIS and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship

How long have you been a member of the QC?

- I have been a member of the QC since 2016

Favorite part about the QC?

- My favorite part of the QC is the collaboration with other surgeons who care about hernias as much as I do, and who push themselves to achieve high quality care and analyze their care relative to their peers

Hobbies:

- Orange Theory Fitness
- Watching Football (Go Bears)
- Movies
- Being a Boy Mom!



ACHQC AT AHS

Join the ACHQC on September 23rd at the American Hernia Society's 2023 Annual Meeting in Austin, TX! The ACHQC session will focus on collaborative learning and outcome optimization. The ACHQC session is free and open for all to attend.

A Decade of Data - Helping You Optimize Your Outcomes Through Collaborative Learning

Saturday, September 23rd | 12:30pm - 1:45pm CT

Lone Star A-C
JW Marriot Austin
110 E. 2nd Street, Austin, TX

Moderators:

Flavio Malcher, MD (NYU Langone) &
Arielle Perez, MD (UNC Hospitals at Chapel Hill)

Preoperative Optimization: What Really Improves Outcomes?

Mazen Al-Mansour, MBBS (University of Florida)

What Have We Learned About the Best Approach for Routine Ventral Hernia Repairs?

Courtney Collins, MD (The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center)

Does the Plane We Place Mesh Really Matter?

Clayton Petro, MD (The Cleveland Clinic)

Postoperative Pain Management - Getting the Best Outcomes for Your Patients

Jeremy Warren, MD (Prisma Health)

REGISTRY UPDATES: PARTICIPANT USE FILE

The ACHQC will soon have a yearly Participant Use File (PUF) for patient-level data analysis. The PUF will be available to ACHQC members in good standing who wish to perform their own analyses of ACHQC information. Data within the PUF is completely de-identified with respect to patient, surgeon, hospital and all product trade names.

SAVE THE DATE! 2024 QI SUMMIT



We invite you to join us for the 6th Annual ACHQC Quality Improvement Summit! The meeting is a true collaborative learning experience where we analyze data, identify high performers and share critical quality improvement in patient data to maximize your outcomes. It will be highly interactive and critical to our mission of quality improvement. We are excited to announce that the QI Summit will once again be in Denver, Colorado!

MEET THE ACHQC ANALYSTS



Li-Ching Huang, PhD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Li-Ching Huang's research interests include hernia repair, cancer research, and clinical trial design, and she has expertise in the areas of propensity score matching, regression modeling, longitudinal data analysis, and power and sample size determination. Li-Ching grew up in Taiwan and has been in Nashville, TN over 8 years. Li-Ching is an indoor plants lover, and she enjoys reading and traveling in her free time.

Jianing Ma, MS

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Jianing Ma received her Master's degree in Biostatistics in 2018 and currently works as a Biostatistician in the Center for Biostatistics at The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. She is specializing in data management, statistical modeling, and visualization. Jianing collaborates extensively with researchers in various departments in OSU and the ACHQC.



Xinyan Zheng, MS

Weill Cornell Medicine



Xinyan Zheng is a Senior Research Data Analyst at Weill Cornell Medicine. She works on surgical and device outcomes research, with a primary focus on population-level studies. She is experienced in using large claim databases and registry data. Recently, she used a data linkage between vascular registry data and Medicare claims to study the long-term safety and effectiveness of endovascular devices. Ever since joining ACHQC in November 2022, Xinyan has participated in numerous investigator-initiated projects. In the future, she will contribute to linking the ACHQC data with Medicare claims to extend the follow-up of patients with hernia repair. Xinyan is proficient in statistical analysis. She holds a master's in Biostatistics from the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University and a bachelor's in Biotechnology from Jinan University in China.

Yousef Alish

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Yousef Alish is a Statistics and Biostatistics Analyst with two years of experience at the Center for Biostatistics within the College of Medicine at The Ohio State University. He specializes in the application of machine learning and statistical methods to build models with the aim of classifying patients by disease status. Yousef's analytics work includes implementation of clustering algorithms to stratify patients based on disease severity as well as data visualization to assess outcomes at follow-up. Additionally, he has experience processing large data sets from diverse sources, preparing them for analysis, and providing insight to investigators regarding data completeness and integrity. Yousef holds dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Data Analytics and Pharmaceutical Sciences from The Ohio State University and is currently pursuing his Master of Science in Biostatistics.



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