

## U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Appoints New Chair and Vice Chair

*The Task Force is pleased to announce updates to its leadership*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 12, 2019 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) announced today the appointments of Douglas K. Owens, M.D., M.S., as chair and Karina W. Davidson, Ph.D., M.A.Sc., as vice chair. Alex H. Krist, M.D., M.P.H., will remain in his role as vice chair. Dr. Owens will assume the role of chair from Susan J. Curry, Ph.D., who will now serve as the immediate past chair.

“I am delighted to congratulate Dr. Owens on his appointment as chair of the Task Force,” said Dr. Curry. “Over the years, he has brought invaluable expertise in evidence synthesis, clinical decisionmaking, and modeling—all critical to the methods we use to develop evidence-based recommendations. I am confident he will continue his strong leadership of the Task Force during his term as chair.”

**Dr. Owens** served as vice chair from 2017 to 2019 and as a member of the Task Force from 2012 to 2015. He is a general internist and investigator at the Center for Innovation to Implementation at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System. He is the Henry J. Kaiser, Jr., professor at Stanford University, where he is also a professor of medicine, health research and policy, and management science and engineering. Dr. Owens is director of the Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research in the Stanford University School of Medicine and director of the Center for Health Policy in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Dr. Davidson, who served as a member of the Task Force from 2014 to 2018, will now return to the Task Force as vice chair.

“Dr. Davidson’s expertise in behavioral and cardiovascular health has been essential to many topics in the Task Force portfolio,” said Dr. Owens. “She has a longstanding commitment to improving the delivery and quality of health care and she will be a valuable addition to our leadership team.”

**Dr. Davidson** is senior vice president of research, dean of academic affairs, and head of the Center for Personalized Health, a new center focused on personalized health research at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at Northwell Health. She is also a professor of behavioral medicine at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University/Northwell Health. She has won national and international awards for her research and served as president of many professional societies.

The Task Force also recognizes Dr. Curry’s tenure on the Task Force, including her leadership as chair.

“My fellow Task Force members and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Curry for her service as a member, vice chair, and chair of the Task Force,” said Dr. Owens. “She is an outstanding leader and her commitment to quality, transparency, and rigor of the recommendation development process made her an excellent ambassador for the Task Force.”

The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine that works to improve the health of all Americans by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications.

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