Cat Davis Ahmed, MBA  
Vice President, Policy and Outreach | The FH Foundation

Cat Davis Ahmed is Vice President, Policy and Outreach for the FH Foundation, where she works with individuals with Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) and the medical professionals who treat them to raise awareness of FH and improve the understanding, diagnosis, and care of this life-threatening genetic condition. Cat works on a national level to advocate on behalf of individuals with FH with policy makers and other decision makers to ensure that FH is recognized and understood as a distinct genetic disorder affecting approximately 1.3 million Americans.

John Anderson, MD  
Past President | The Frist Clinic

Dr. John Anderson practices internal medicine and diabetes at the Frist Clinic in Nashville, TN. Dr. Anderson has served as a long-time volunteer for the American Diabetes Association both locally and nationally. He has served two separate terms on the National Board of Directors for the ADA, as well as three years on the Executive Committee. In 2013 he received the Banting Medal for service as President of Medicine and Science for the ADA. Dr. Anderson continues to consult and lecture both nationally and internationally, with a focus on improving the care of people with diabetes in the primary care setting.

Jim Barton  
Patient and Advocate | Mended Hearts

Jim Barton is a Mended Hearts volunteer who provides peer-to-peer support for heart-surgery patients in Northern Virginia. Jim worked for 26 years as an independent agent for a leading firm in the scholastic and corporate recognition industry. Recognized as National Salesman of the Year with Balfour Company, he later served as the General Sales Manager of Award Crafters Inc. Jim has enjoyed years of activity outdoors: competitive and recreational sailing, hunting, fishing and attending sporting events.

Martha Biddle, PhD, APRN, CCNS, FAHA  
Associate Professor | College of Nursing, University of Kentucky

Dr. Martha Biddle received both her master’s degree and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from the University of Kentucky. Her research interests include primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease in rural populations. Currently, Dr. Biddle is an associate professor and coordinator for the Clinical Nurse Specialist Track in the DNP Program at the College of Nursing, University of Kentucky. Previous to her appointment as a faculty member, she developed and directed a cardiac rehabilitation and disease management program at a community hospital.

Sarah Casagrande, PhD  
Senior Research Analyst | Social & Scientific Systems, Inc, Contract with NIDDK

Sarah Casagrande is currently a senior research analyst at Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., a private company that supports public health research and health programs to enable policymakers, medical professionals, communities, and citizens to improve public health. Sarah has nearly 40 publications in peer reviewed journals. Her research supports scientists at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and is focused on the prevalence of diabetes and its associated complications in the United States, diabetes management and control, and issues related to access to care among persons with diabetes.

Florence Champagne, MSW  
WomenHeart Champion & CEO of Open My Heart Foundation

Florence Champagne suffered a heart attack March of 2012, which required open heart surgery. Due to being uninsured at the time, she had not received proper diagnostic testing and treatment. She found that she was not alone, and met other uninsured or underinsured African-American women, which impacted their ability to receive treatment. Finding purpose in her pain, Florence provides support, advocacy, and leadership to women living with heart disease through WomenHeart, where she is a spokesperson. Through her advocacy, education, and speaking engagements, Florence has reached approximately 6,000 women.

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PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE Cardiovascular Health
NKC Morse
Division Vice President, Advocacy | American College of Cardiology
As DVP for Advocacy, Nick is charged with guiding and strengthening the College’s access operations at the hospital level with policymakers and other stakeholders to advance the College’s mission of transforming cardiovascular care. Nick serves on the Advocacy team with the College’s Advocacy team work closely with ACC staff and member leaders to spearhead engagement and development of sound policy to address a broad spectrum of cardiovascular disease and address the complex issues facing America’s health care system.

Kim Newlin, MSN, ANP
President of the Board | Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Kim Newlin is the Director of Cardiovascular Services at Sutter Roseville Medical Center. As an Adult Nurse Practitioner, Kim sees patients and supports access to appropriate care at Heart Health Roseville, which she helped establish seven years ago. She works with a multidisciplinary team and several national organizations to improve the patient experience during their stay in the hospital and the transition home, while reducing readmission rates at the hospital. Kim is President of the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association’s Board of Directors.

Connie Newlon
WomenHeart Champion
Connie Newlon is a WomenHeart District Leader and a National Spokesperson for the organization. She became a WomenHeart Champion at the Women’s Symposium Clinics. She frequently attends Capitol Hill to advocate on behalf of heart patients, and will be visiting this year yet again for advising for funding for heart research. Connie served on the American Heart Advocacy Board in 2015 and was given the American Heart Volunteer of the Year Award in 2017.

Robin Diggs Outlaw, MPH
Chief, Chronic Disease Division | District of Columbia Department of Health
Robin Diggs Outlaw, MPH serves as the Director of the Chronic Disease Division within the District of Columbia Department of Health’s Community Health Administration. As Division Chief, Ms. Diggs leads several of the District’s chronic disease prevention and control initiatives focused on system transformation, quality improvement, policy, and environmental interventions to support healthy lifestyles, and clinically integrated community programming. She also serves as senior public health advisor for several priority community health initiatives related to primary care delivery, school health, and maternal and child health.

Alyssa Pressley
Executive Portfolio Lead for Diabetes | American Heart Association
Alyssa Pressley is the Executive Portfolio Lead for Diabetes at the American Heart Association (AHA). In this role she leads enterprise-wide diabetes strategy and integration, serving as Director of the Know Diabetes by Heart Initiative. Know Diabetes by Heart is a joint initiative between the AHA and the American Diabetes Association (ADA), supporting the shared mission to reduce the impact of cardiovascular disease in people with type 2 diabetes.

Lindsay Videneck, JD
Cardiovascular Disease Working Group Manager | Alliance for Patient Access
Lindsay Videneck manages AHA’s Cardiovascular Disease Working Group, which brings together policy-minded clinicians who care about patient access. Lindsay has more than a decade of experience in advising non-profit organizations on strategies to secure federal funding and support public policy goals. Lindsay graduated from the University of Maine at Orono with a Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and English and received her Juris Doctor degree from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Maryland and resides in Washington, D.C. with her husband and her (soon to be three) children.