

About the Program

Keynote Presentation

Academy for Quality and Safety Improvement (AQSI)

The Academy for Quality and Safety Improvement (AQSI) is a professional development program with the overarching goal to develop future leaders by equipping them with the skills and tools necessary to lead meaningful change. The program includes QI formal training and a team project. The project allows team members to lead change efforts on QI initiatives that directly impact their practice, colleagues, and patients. AQSI participants are selected through a competitive application process that occurs in each region.

AQSI began on the Central Campus of Northwest University as a collaboration among the Department of Medicine, the Masters Program in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety offered through the Center for Education in the Health Sciences, and the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Performance Improvement Department, with the first cohort completing the program in spring 2013. Since then, the program has expanded to include more departments and a diverse group of professions. In 2017, AQSI expanded to the North and West regions of Northwestern Medicine.

About the Faculty

Keynote Presentation

Developing and Sustaining a Team-Based Quality Improvement Program

Kevin O'Leary, MD, MS

Executive Medical Director, Academy for Quality and Safety Improvement (AQSI), Chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine
Associate Chair for Quality, Department of Medicine
Medical Director for Quality, Northwestern Memorial Hospital



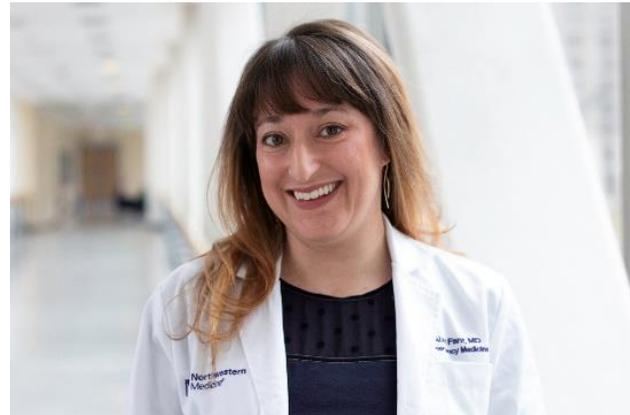
Kevin J. O'Leary, MD, MS, is the John T. Clarke Professor of Medicine, Chief of the [Division of Hospital Medicine](#) and Associate Chair for Quality in the Department of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Kevin also serves as the Medical Director for Quality at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. In recognition of his leadership in developing one of first nationally respected academic hospital medicine groups, he received the SHM National Award for Clinical Excellence in 2008. He is the founding Director of the

[Northwestern Medicine Academy for Quality and Safety Improvement \(NM AQSI\)](#), a professional development program to train leaders in quality improvement. In 2015, AQSI received the Leape Ahead Award from the American Association for Physician Leadership. He is the author of peer reviewed publications related to hospital medicine, medical education, healthcare quality, and patient safety. His primary research interest is interprofessional collaboration and teamwork. He currently serves as principal investigator of the [Redesigning Systems to Enhance Teamwork and Quality for Hospitalized Patients \(RESET\)](#) project, a study funded through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) which provides mentored implementation to help hospitals redesign clinical microsystems to improve patient outcomes. He also serves as Deputy Editor for the [Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety](#).

Abra Fant, MD, MS

Central Co-Medical Director, Academy for Quality and Safety Improvement (AQSI)
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Dr. Abra Fant is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University and is the rising Program Director for the Emergency Medicine residency. She is also Director for Patient Safety and Quality Improvement for the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern.



Dr. Fant serves as the Central Region Medical Director for the Academy of Quality and Safety Improvement of Northwestern Memorial Healthcare, where she also serves on hospital and departmental quality committees. She is an inaugural course director for the ACGME Program Director Patient Safety and Quality Network which, in partnership with the ECHO Institute, is helping residency programs improve their curricula and engagement in quality and safety, and she is part of the national AAMC Diagnostic Safety Workgroup. Dr. Fant has authored work in the Annals of Emergency Medicine Education & Training Journal, BMJ Quality and Safety, and the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine and serves as a Consulting Associate Editor for the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine.

Value Partnerships Program

In 2005, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan launched the Value Partnerships Program with a focus on quality improvement in the primary care and surgical arenas. Today there are 10 programs with 50 initiatives focused on safety, quality, cost-effectiveness, population health and coordination of care. Collaboration among Blue Cross, hospitals and physicians across Michigan enables robust data collection and sharing of best practices.

Value Partnerships initiatives pay health care providers to successfully manage their patients' health, retreating from fee-for-service. The results show savings of nearly \$2.2 billion over the past 10 years through reduction in repeated tests, complications and errors, prevention of ER visits and hospital stays, and appropriately coordinated care.

Collaborative Quality Initiatives

Collaborative Quality Initiatives (CQIs) are statewide, physician-led quality improvement programs that address some of the most highly technical and medically complex areas of surgical and medical care. Utilizing data from a clinical registry, under the guidance of a data and QI coordinating center, participants share and learn best practices through a process of continuous quality improvement. CQI registries allow for a more robust analysis of the link between processes and outcomes than can be achieved by examining one group or institution alone. BCBSM currently funds 17 hospital and/or physician practice-based CQIs. For more information on Value Partnerships programs, please visit www.valuepartnerships.com.

