Speakers Bureau

If you are a member of the media and would like to learn more about National POLST, please contact the National POLST Office at (202) 780-8532 or admin@polst.org. You may also reach out to our experts listed below; contact information is located below their biography.

Susan E. Nelson, MD, FACP, FAAHPM
Susan Nelson is the Secretary of National POLST’s Leadership Council. She also serves as medical director of Post-Acute Care, Ochsner Health Network and System Chair, Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care as well as System Chair, Bioethics, Ochsner Health. She currently chairs the Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) Coalition, an initiative of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, and is a past board member of that organization. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine as well as an advocate for senior health. Dr. Nelson assisted in the development of the Catholic Health Association’s “End-of-Life Guides” as well as the “Pathways to Convergence” document which explores both diverging and converging views of Catholics about advance care planning, palliative care, and health care decisions within the Catholic Church and in the public square. She is a faculty member for Respecting Choices.

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Amy Vandenbroucke, JD
Amy Vandenbroucke has served as the Executive Director of National POLST since 2013. Prior to joining the National POLST, Amy served as Legal Counsel at Oregon Health & Science University where she advised on a variety of issues, including medical ethics, informed consent, guardianship and health care generally. Prior to graduating from the DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, she worked for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office for Civil Rights, the American Osteopathic Association, and the University of Chicago. Amy is a 2015 Practice Change Leader for Aging and Health, a yearlong program jointly supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies and the John A. Hartford Foundation. She is also a Hartford Change AGEnt through the Hartford Change AGEnts Initiative.

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Abby Dotson, PhD

Dr. Dotson is National POLST’s Technology Advisor. She is the Director of the Oregon POLST Registry (OPR) and a Research Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University. In her role at OPR, Abby oversees the operations and ongoing technology development of the secure, statewide digital health platform that allows health care professionals treating a patient access to their end-of-life medical orders. She serves on the Oregon POLST Coalition and is the Registries section leader of the National POLST Technology Committee. Abby recently spearheaded a program-wide rebuild of OPR’s technology and operations resulting in Oregon’s first ever POLST Registry healthcare provider portal, direct POLST data entry into the Registry database and a platform capable of EHR integration. As a Research Assistant Professor, Abby conducts and supports end-of-life treatment research centered around POLST use and outcomes and is passionate about using data to drive healthcare policy and education.

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Karl Steinberg, MD, CMD, HMDC, HEC-C

Dr. Steinberg is Vice President of National POLST’s Leadership Council and has been involved in POLST activities in California since 2008. He is a hospice and nursing home medical director and is a past chair of the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California. Dr. Steinberg is President of AMDA — The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, serves on the National Quality Forum’s standing committee on Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, and is a delegate to the American Medical Association's House of Delegates.

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Erik K. Fromme, MD, MCR, FAAHPM

Erik Fromme, MD, MCR is a Senior Scientist and Lead Faculty for the Serious Illness Care Program at Ariadne Labs, a joint center for healthcare delivery innovation between the Harvard School of Public Health and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. The Program’s mission is ensuring that timely, good quality communication about patients’ values and goals happens for every seriously ill patient. Dr. Fromme is a nationally recognized expert in advance care planning, serious illness communication, and POLST, and led some of the foundational POLST research using data from the Oregon POLST Registry. He chairs the National POLST Research and Quality Assurance Committee and the Massachusetts MOLST-to-POLST Advisory Committee. Dr. Fromme practices palliative medicine at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and he is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

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