



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

A BI-WEEKLY LOOK AT THE BUSINESS & POLITICS OF HEALTH CARE IN NEW JERSEY



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER **After 25 Years, Looking Back - And Towards the Future**

At the Quality Institute, we trace our roots to the New Jersey Health Care Payers Coalition, which purchased benefits for their union members and were frustrated over the lack of transparency on price and quality. Were they paying higher prices for care at hospitals with low quality? There was no way to know.

Coalition leaders feared they were spending too much money on health care that was not improving their members' lives.

So, 25 years ago, the coalition created the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan member organization with a mission to advance health care quality and safety. Our early leaders were visionaries: David Knowlton, Judith Persichilli, Suzanne Miller, Andrea Aughenbaugh, Fred Jacobs, former Gov. Jim Florio, and many others. They knew change would come only when leaders from all areas of health care left their own interests at the door and worked together to make health care better for everyone.

In those early years, the Institute of Medicine broke the silence surrounding medical errors with a [report](#) that found 98,000 Americans die in hospitals each year because of preventable mistakes. Other national reports pointed to poor quality in our state. The urgency was real and drove the Quality Institute forward. Hospitals, health insurers, businesses, physicians, nurses, consumer groups, academics, lawmakers, and others joined our mission.

Today, we have more than 120 member organizations who work with us to improve health care for everyone...

[Read Full Story](#)



ANN M. NGUYEN, PH.D.

ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSOR
AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENTIST AT
RUTGERS - CENTER FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Ann M. Nguyen, Ph.D., is an Assistant Research Professor and Implementation Scientist at [Rutgers - Center for State Health Policy](#). Her research focuses on primary care, practice transformation, and workforce. Dr. Nguyen participated in the Quality Institute's [Guidance Document to Recruit, Train, & Retain A Diverse NJ Health Care Workforce](#).

Interview Sneak Peek: New Jersey's COVID-19 Temporary Emergency Reciprocity Licensure (TERL) program provided temporary licenses to more than 31,000 out-of-state health care practitioners during the pandemic. How are you evaluating this program?

My colleagues and I at Rutgers Center for State Health Policy partnered with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, supported with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to learn how the program impacted the health care workforce supply. As of January 2021, the Division of Consumer Affairs had issued more than 31,000 temporary licenses – about 27 percent to physicians, 26 percent to mental health providers, 35 percent to nurses and nurse practitioners, and 2 percent to respiratory care therapists. We conducted a survey of the temporary licensees and received about 10,000 responses, which was a pretty good response rate. We do acknowledge some limitations of this study because the subset of practitioners who responded to the survey may be different from the ones who did not...

[Read Full Interview](#)

 NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE

**25th Anniversary
Celebration**

REGISTER NOW 



Celebrating 25 Years

Advancing Health Care Safety,
Quality, and Affordability

Picture from 2015

Last Chance to Register

Quality Institute members and guests: You're invited to celebrate our 25th Anniversary from 5-7:30pm on Thursday, September 15th at the [Trenton Country Club](#)!

About This Event:

Please join us for drinks, light hors d'oeuvres, and conversation as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. We look forward to seeing our members and invited guests, recognizing our accomplishments, and celebrating our Champions of Quality.

**This event is for Quality Institute members and invited guests only.*

Register for Our 25th Anniversary

Champions of Quality



Leah Binder,
*President and CEO,
The Leapfrog Group*



David Knowlton,
*Founder & former
President & CEO,
New Jersey Health Care
Quality Institute*



Judith Persichilli,
R.N., B.S.N., M.A.,
*Commissioner, NJ Department
of Health, Founder and former
Vice Chair of the Board, New
Jersey Health Care Quality
Institute*



Jennifer Velez,
Esq.,
*SVP and General Counsel,
Horizon Blue Cross Blue
Shield of NJ,
Former Commissioner, NJ
Department of Human
Services*



**Senator
Joseph Vitale,**
*New Jersey
Legislature*



WHAT WE ARE READING

CURRENT STAFF READS



"Two Years After A Disappointing RCT In Camden: Reassessing Value And Building Ecosystems Of Care" by **Kathleen Noonan, J.D.,** CEO, **Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers**

NEW MEMBER



Nemours Children's Health

[Nemours Children's Health](#) is one of the nation's largest multistate pediatric health systems, including two free-standing children's hospitals and a network of more than 70 primary and specialty care practices. Nemours Children's seeks to transform the health of children by caring for the whole child beyond medicine.



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at www.njhcqi.org.

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