

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality soliciting nominations for new members of its National Advisory Council.**

The 21-member Council advises Mr. Khanna and HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar, on matters related to activities of the Agency to carry out its mission. Seven current members' terms will expire in November 2019, and new members will begin their terms in the spring of 2020.

As you may know, members generally serve three-year terms, and the Council meets in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area approximately three times a year. To fill these positions, we are seeking individuals with experience and success in (1) the conduct of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations with respect to health care; (2) the fields of health care quality research or health care improvement; (3) the practice of medicine; (4) other health professions; (5) representing the private health care sector (including health plans, providers, and purchasers) or administrators of health care delivery systems; (6) the fields of health care economics, information systems, law, ethics, business, or public policy; and, (7) representing the interests of patients and consumers of health care.

Interested persons may nominate one or more qualified persons for membership on the Council. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations shall include: (1) A copy of the nominee's resume or curriculum vitae; and (2) a statement that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the Council. Selected candidates will be asked to provide detailed information concerning their financial interests, consultant positions and research grants and contracts, to permit evaluation of possible sources of conflict of interest. Please note that once a candidate is nominated, AHRQ may consider that nomination for future positions on the Council.

Further details can be found in a June 12 [Federal Register notice](#).

Nominations are due by **August 11** and should be sent to Ms. Jaime Zimmerman AHRQ, 5600 Fishers Lane, 06E37A, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Nominations may also be emailed to [NationalAdvisoryCouncil@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:NationalAdvisoryCouncil@ahrq.hhs.gov).

### **Are you a healthcare worker who completed your training in another country?**

[New American Economy](#) is looking for stories to help raise public awareness about legislation that would make it easier for foreign-trained healthcare professionals to get licensed and work in their desired fields.

Last May, California Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard introduced the [PATH Act](#), which will help foreign-trained healthcare professionals find jobs in the United States that reflect their education, skills, and expertise. The legislation includes initiatives to provide counseling and training opportunities, and to educate employers on international credentials and training.

The bipartisan immigration-reform nonprofit New American Economy is working to raise awareness of the need for the PATH Act. They're collecting stories nationwide, but they're especially seeking people in Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, and Pennsylvania who want to share their views:

- Was it hard to get back into your field once you arrived in the United States?
- Did you switch careers completely or work less than you'd like?
- What would you like Congress to know about your experience that could help others?

Please email Ben Whitford, at [Ben@newamericaneconomy.org](mailto:Ben@newamericaneconomy.org). All messages will be treated as confidential.

## CDC Tuberculosis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA) have released ‘[Tuberculosis Screening, Testing, and Treatment of U.S. Health-Care Personnel: Recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC, 2019](#)’, published today in CDC’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. The updated recommendations reflect the overall decrease of TB cases and the low incidence of TB among health care personnel in the United States due to occupational exposure.

Highlights from the updated recommendations include:

- Health care personnel should receive a [baseline individual TB risk assessment](#), [symptom screening](#), and TB testing (e.g., TB skin test or TB blood test) upon hire/pre-placement.
- CDC and NTCA do not recommend annual TB testing for health care personnel unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission in a health care setting.
- Health care personnel with a positive TB skin test or TB blood test result should receive a symptom evaluation and chest x-ray to rule out TB disease. Treatment for latent TB infection is strongly encouraged. Shorter course [latent TB infection treatment](#) regimens that are three to four months in duration are encouraged over the longer six- or nine-month treatment regimens because they are easier for people to complete.
- If health care personnel have untreated latent TB infection, they should be screened annually for [symptoms](#) of TB disease (e.g., a cough lasting longer than three weeks, unexplained weight loss, night sweats or a fever, and loss of appetite).
- All health care personnel should receive annual TB education. TB education should include information on TB risk factors, the signs and symptoms of TB disease, and TB infection control policies and procedures.

These recommendations update the recommendations for TB screening and testing of health care personnel from the [Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of \*Mycobacterium tuberculosis\* in Health-Care Settings, 2005](#). The recommendations for facility risk assessments and infection-control practices are unchanged.

CDC has developed [supporting resources](#) and tools including: [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and a [Baseline Individual TB Risk Assessment Form](#).

As state and local TB screening and testing regulations may differ based on local needs, the updated recommendations do not override or replace state regulations. CDC encourages facilities with questions about testing regulations in their state to contact their [state TB control program](#).

Please visit the [CDC Division of Tuberculosis Elimination webpage](#) for additional information and resources regarding these recommendations.

## 2019 Movement Is Life National Caucus Addressing Musculoskeletal Health Disparities

Movement Is Life welcomes your application to present a poster at their upcoming National Movement is Life Caucus, November 14-15, 2019 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD located at 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD 20745. A major theme of the Caucus is to increase awareness of the **link between joint pain, mobility and obesity**. These issues disproportionately affect women and under-represented minorities contributing to the musculoskeletal (bone and joint) healthcare disparities. **They are seeking to highlight community and academic groups with educational efforts which address this topic.** [Please remember that you must register for the Caucus before submitting your poster/abstract application.](#) Click the buttons below to register for the Caucus and download the poster/abstract application and submission information.

# 2019 National Caucus Addressing Musculoskeletal Health Disparities

November 14-15, 2019

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center  
National Harbor, Maryland

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."  
— Martin Luther King Jr.



[www.movementislifecaucus.com](http://www.movementislifecaucus.com)

[Click here to Register for the 2019 Caucus](#)

[Click here to download the Poster Invitation & Application](#)  
Submission Deadline: September 13th, 2019

## *SOAR en línea*



There is now a training resource available to the National Hispanic Medical Association network. The HHS SOAR training program is administered by the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), in partnership with the Office on Women's Health (OWH), through the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center. Access the CME/CM training course, visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/soar-to-health-and-wellness-training/soar-online>.

## **CMS: Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization (CDO)**

CMS announced that the window to submit applications to become a Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization (CDO) is now open. Organizations interested in becoming a CDO that can certify individual CACs can submit applications now through September 16, 2019. For more information and for the application, visit <https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/assister-programs/cac.html>.

# ACCESS: HEALTH

2019 ANNUAL GALA



RSVP TODAY

**Monday, October 21, 2019**  
**Cipriani 25 Broadway**

**Honoring**

**HEALTH EQUITY CHAMPION**

**Robert F. Smith**

*Founder, Chairman & CEO, Vista Equity Partners*

Join us as we celebrate our 2019 Annual Gala at one of New York City's most glamourous and historical sites.

Be sure to check out our new additions to the Gala, including:

- Premier tickets
- Special rate for non-profit employees
- Sponsorship opportunities

We look forward to seeing you there!