

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Announces New Chair and Vice Chair

Dr. Wanda Nicholson named as chair and Dr. John Wong as vice chair

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 14, 2024 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) announced today the appointments of Wanda Nicholson, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., as chair and John Wong, M.D., MACP, as vice chair. Michael Silverstein, M.D., M.P.H., will remain in his role as vice chair. Dr. Nicholson will assume the role of chair from Michael Barry, M.D., who will now serve as immediate past chair.

“I would like to congratulate Dr. Nicholson on her appointment as chair,” said Dr. Barry. “The Task Force has greatly benefited from her lifelong work to improve the health of women, expertise in the prevention of chronic diseases, and commitment to advancing health equity. I am confident she will continue to provide strong leadership in her new role.”

Dr. Nicholson is a senior associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, director of the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and professor of prevention and community health at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University. She is an obstetrician-gynecologist with expertise in perinatal and women’s population health and health equity.

Dr. Wong, who served as a member of the Task Force from March 2018 through December 2023, will now return to the Task Force as vice chair.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Wong back to the Task Force as vice chair,” said Dr. Nicholson. “His dedication to helping patients and clinicians work together to make informed healthcare decisions along with his knowledge of evidence synthesis and modeling have been critical to the development of many of our recommendations. His expertise will continue to be invaluable as the Task Force reviews complex cancer screening topics.”

Dr. Wong is vice chair for academic affairs, chief of the Division of Clinical Decision Making, and a primary care clinician in the Department of Medicine at Tufts Medical Center. He is also director of comparative effectiveness research for the Tufts Clinical Translational Science Institute and a distinguished professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and the Tufts University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

The Task Force also recognizes Dr. Barry’s tenure on the Task Force, including his leadership as chair.

“We are deeply grateful to Dr. Barry for his service and contributions to the Task Force,” said Dr. Nicholson. “We thank Dr. Barry not only for his leadership and expertise in the development of many of our critical recommendations, such as screening for colorectal cancer and lung cancer, but also in advancing the Task Force’s commitment to shared decision making and ensuring patients are making better decisions for their health.”

The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine that works to improve the health of people nationwide by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications.

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