

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Announces Appointment of Four New Members *Experts in primary care, evidence-based medicine, and health disparities join the Task Force*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – January 5, 2022 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) announced today the addition of four new members: David Chelmow, M.D.; Tumaini Rucker Coker, M.D., M.B.A.; Carlos Roberto Jaén, M.D., Ph.D., M.S., FAAFP; and John M. Ruiz, Ph.D. They are appointed to serve 4-year terms beginning in January 2022.

The four new members bring additional expertise in primary care, evidence-based medicine, and health disparities to the Task Force. With expertise in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Chelmow has extensive experience in evidence-based guideline development related to women’s and maternal health. Dr. Coker’s research portfolio focuses on advancing health equity for disadvantaged populations, including improving the delivery of care to underserved children and families. Dr. Jaén’s areas of expertise include improving preventive care for people of all ages and preventing complications from chronic diseases; he has helped develop many guidelines and works to address access to care issues among Hispanic/Latino communities. An expert in psychology and behavioral medicine, Dr. Ruiz has published extensively in the areas of racial disparities in cardiovascular disease and other preventable diseases, including examining contributions of social and behavioral factors to health disparities. The collective work of these four individuals has helped to improve the health of women, children, and families—with a special focus on addressing health inequalities.

“On behalf of my fellow Task Force members, I am pleased to welcome Drs. Chelmow, Coker, Jaén, and Ruiz to the Task Force,” says Task Force chair Karina W. Davidson, Ph.D., M.A.Sc. “They each bring unique clinical and research expertise that will enhance the work of the Task Force. In addition, their collective experience in addressing health inequities among different communities will be valuable as the Task Force works to counteract the effects of systemic racism in healthcare.”

Dr. Chelmow is the Leo J. Dunn professor of obstetrics and gynecology and interim dean at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine in Richmond, Virginia. He serves as interim executive vice president for medical affairs at VCU Health, where he directed obstetric and gynecological clinical services as chair for more than a decade.

Dr. Coker is chief of the Division of General Pediatrics and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Seattle Children’s. She serves as the co-director of the University of Washington’s Child Health Equity Research Fellowship, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Jaén is a professor and the Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly distinguished chair in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Dr. Ruiz is an associate professor of clinical psychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Arizona, where he is also director of health psychology/behavioral medicine training and director of diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Complete biographies of the new members are available on the Task Force website at <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/about-uspstf/current-members>.

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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