

**Appraisal of Guidelines for REsearch and Evaluation (AGREE):
OPTIMIZING CLINICAL GUIDELINE QUALITY AND PUBLICATION WORKSHOP**
SAVE THE DATE!: February 29th, 2024

The Appraisal of Guidelines for REsearch & Evaluation (AGREE) Instrument was developed to address the issue of variability in guideline quality. The AGREE instrument is a tool for the systematic assessment of the methodological rigor and transparency of clinical guidelines. The result of the Collaboration's effort was the original AGREE Instrument, a 23-item tool comprising 6 quality domains. AGREE was updated in its second version, the AGREE II which is the current validated tool for the assessment of the quality of guidelines. AGREE II is the most accepted tool for this purpose and its use among users, developers and implementers will improve the quality and implementability of recommendations in the health care practice.

The AGREE USA Center (American College of Physicians), AGREE Colombian Center (University of Antioquia), and AGREE Canadian Center (University of Ottawa) are pleased to offer the first in a series of workshops aimed to prepare learners to develop and disseminate high quality clinical guidelines. The workshop will bring together international experts for an intensive session covering development, reporting, and appraisal of clinical guidelines. In addition, the Editor in Chief of *Annals of Internal Medicine* will talk about strategies for successful publication of clinical guidelines and other scholarly work in top tier journals.

Aims and Objectives of the Course.

- Prepare participants with foundational information and skills relevant to the development of high-quality clinical guidelines.
- Enable participants to apply the AGREE methods for systematic assessment of guideline quality.
- Provide strategies for successful publication of clinical guidelines and other scholarly work.

Background

The AGREE Collaboration supports the guidelines enterprise through the creation of tools that support the development, the reporting, and the appraisal of guidelines. Using high quality methods and international participation, the AGREE Collaboration has developed a large portfolio of tools. The most well-known and used, the AGREE II and AGREE Reporting Checklist, have supported developers, researchers and users for two decades and stands as the most accepted tools to assess the quality of guidelines and to inform reporting and developing standards worldwide.

Intended Audience

This workshop is for those interested in guidelines who are new to or seeking to improve their skills related to clinical guideline development, assessment, dissemination, and implementation and this may include, but not restricted to clinicians, health administrators, graduate students researchers or decision-makers.

Preworkshop Activities

Participants will need to prepare by reading two clinical guidelines provided by the organizers.

Program in Brief

- Setting the Stage.
- AGREE II in the Spotlight.
- Perspective 1. The Who, What and Why
- Perspective 2. The How
- Perspective 3. And The Rest
- Perspective 4. Publication 101

Location and Venue :

American College of Physicians HQ
190 N Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, USA,



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

The first World Heritage City in the U.S., Philadelphia is home to American history, chef-driven cuisine, abundant outdoor space, and an unparalleled arts and culture community. These qualities have elevated Philadelphia as a destination worthy of the world’s attention, recently receiving recognition from National Geographic, Condé Nast Traveler, Travel + Leisure, and TIME. Most recently, Philly was named by Lonely Planet as one of the 10 Best Cities to visit in 2024 (1 of only 2 U.S. Cities).



Dates and time:

February 29, 2024; 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Registration Fees

Regular participants	400 USD
Students and participants from LMIC*	200 USD

*Countries classified as low or middle income economies according to the World Bank: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups#:~:text=For%20the%20current%202024%20fiscal,those%20with%20a%20GNI%20per>

Save the date!

**For preregistration please fill out the form in the following [LINK](#).
Registration and payment details will be sent back early next year**

Facilitators

Ivan D. Florez, MD, MSc, PhD

Dr Florez is a pediatrician, with a master's in clinical Epidemiology, and a Ph.D. in Health Research Methodology from McMaster University. He is Full Professor at the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Antioquia (Medellin, Colombia) and Assistant Professor (Part-Time) at McMaster University (Canada) and ICU Pediatrician at Clínica Las Americas-AUNA, Medellin, Colombia. Dr Florez was Former Deputy Director of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for the Health Technology Assessment Agency of Colombia (IETS). Dr. Ivan Florez is the current Leader of the AGREE Collaboration (www.agreetrust.com), the Director of Cochrane Colombia, co-founder of the GRADE Colombia Network and the Editor-in-Chief of the New Guidelines International Network Journal: *Clinical and Public Health Guidelines*. He is also member of the Cochrane's Conflicts of Interests panel and member of the International Advisory Board of the INGUIDE (International Guideline Credentialing and Certification program). Dr Florez has participated in the development or adaptation of guidelines in North America, South America, Middle East and Europe.

Melissa Brouwers, BSc, MSc, PhD

Dr. Melissa Brouwers is a Professor and the Director of the School of Epidemiology and Public Health (SEPH) in the Faculty of Medicine at University of Ottawa. She also holds appointments at McMaster University in the Department of Oncology and the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact (HEI). At SEPH, Dr. Brouwers is a co-leader of the Knowledge Synthesis and Application Unit (<https://www.ksau.ca/>) and a co-lead of the AGREE Research Enterprise (www.agreetrust.com). Dr. Brouwers holds a wealth of experience as a health services researcher with special interest in knowledge translation, implementation science and evaluation, and knowledge synthesis and guidelines. She has a passion for graduate school education and international research collaborations. She obtained her PhD in Social Psychology from Western University. She obtained her PhD in Social Psychology from Western University, Canada

Amir Qaseem, MD, PhD, MHA, MRCP (London), FACP

Dr. Qaseem is Chief Science Officer at the American College of Physicians. He is also Senior Vice President of Clinical Policy and Centers for Evidence Reviews at ACP. He heads ACP's evidence-based medicine program, Centers for Evidence Reviews, and Clinical Guidelines, oldest program in the United States. Dr. Qaseem also leads ACP's Quality Indicators, Performance Measures, and Population Health programs. He directs ACP's high value care and cost effectiveness efforts evaluating and publishing the benefits, harms, and costs of various overused, misused, and underused diagnostic tests and therapeutic interventions. He is one of the founding members of Cochrane US Network and is a member of the executive committee.

Dr. Qaseem has led and participated in decisions varying from organizational level strategies to national level clinical priorities and policies in the United States and other countries. Dr. Qaseem has also been involved in multiple international collaborations to develop health policy, assess and evaluate quality of care, and develop quality improvement strategies and programs in countries in Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. Dr. Qaseem has published extensively in peer reviewed journals, of which over 150 papers were published in the top 5 medical journals in the world on topics such as clinical guidelines, methods for developing guidelines, pandemic crisis, quality improvement, performance measures, population health, and health policy related issues. Some of the papers authored by Dr. Qaseem are in the top ten most read articles in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Dr Qaseem has an h-index of 76. He has been invited to speak as a keynote speaker and has presented at several national and international conferences on issues related to health policy, evidence-based



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medicine, population and public health, guideline development, guideline and evidence grading, performance measurement, and quality of care.

Dr. Qaseem has been interviewed for his expertise by journalists from TV, Radio, and Print/Internet for many high-profile media outlets such as BBC, CNN, NBC, Reuters, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal to name a few. Dr. Qaseem brings over 20 years of experience that includes working on different types of boards and committees, including governance boards, of various national and international organizations. This includes European Commission, World Health Organization, Cochrane, GRADE Working Group, Guidelines International Network, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), National Quality Forum, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, and Health Level Seven International (HL7)/FHIR.

Christine Laine, MD, MPH, FACP

Dr Laine is Editor in Chief of *Annals of Internal Medicine*. a Senior Vice President at the American College of Physicians. She is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Internal Medicine at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where she is active in-patient care and teaching. Dr. Laine graduated from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York with majors in writing and biology. She received her medical degree from State University of New York at Stony Brook and completed residency training in internal medicine at The New York Hospital (Cornell University) and a fellowship in general internal medicine and clinical epidemiology at Beth Israel Hospital (Harvard University). Dr. Laine earned her Master of Public Health degree, with a concentration in quantitative methods and clinical epidemiology, at Harvard University. Dr. Laine has held leadership positions in the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the Council of Science Editors, and the World Association of Medical Editors. She has been instrumental in the development of editorial policy about such issues as authorship, conflicts of interest in medical research, and data sharing.