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| <b>AUA Staff Liaison</b> | Idrissa Heard   |
| <b>Chair</b>             | Matthew E. Nielsen, MD, MS  |
| <b>Terms of Office</b>   | Chair: 4 years (non-renewable)<br>Members: 3 years (renewable once) |

### Committee Makeup

*The voting members of the Science and Quality Council (S&Q Council) shall consist of the chair, approximately 6 members and the chairs of the designated component committees. The chair shall be approved by the Board of Directors for a two-year term (renewable once) and members serve a 3-year term (renewable once). The Public Policy Chair and Research Chair shall serve as an ex-officio members. Component committees include but are not limited to the Practice Guidelines Committee, Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee and Data Committee. (AUAER Bylaws, May 2023)*

In addition, every other year an S&Q Fellow is selected in April to serve a 1-year non-voting term (Annual Meeting- Annual Meeting) on the S&Q Council and its subcommittees (PGC, QIPS, and Data).

### Vision/Mission/Purpose

*The Science and Quality Council shall oversee the science, quality and data components of the Association's mission as requested by the Board of Directors. This includes but is not limited to the development, dissemination, and implementation of guidelines, physician performance measures, patient safety initiatives, registries, and data projects. (AUAER Bylaws May 2023).*

### Reporting

The Science & Quality Council reports to the AUA Board of Directors. The S&Q Chair reports to the board at the fall board meeting and may present action items at the other board meetings as needed.

### Component Committees/Work Groups/Panels

Component committees include, but are not limited to: Practice Guidelines Committee (PGC), Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) Committee, Data Committee and Measure Evaluation Panel (MEP).

### Committee Meetings

The Science and Quality Council shall have in-person or video teleconference meetings in the Spring, prior to the AUA Annual Meeting and in the Fall, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Contact with committee members via phone calls, video teleconferences and email correspondence shall occur throughout the year on an as needed basis. The Council and committee chairs will meet on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

### Time Commitment

*Chair:* 10 hours per week  
*Member:* Average of 8 hours per month



## Responsibilities

**Chair** The S&Q Chair is responsible for helping to shape and execute the broad science, quality, and data agenda of the AUA. This includes, but is not limited to:

- creation, dissemination and implementation of guidelines and other documents
- maintenance of the AUA Quality (AQUA) Registry
- development and implementation of the biennial Quality Improvement Summit
- execution and maintenance of the Quality Improvement Program
- development and implementation of physician performance measures
- advancement of patient safety initiatives
- monitoring of federal, state, and local quality healthcare programs and the education of AUA members about these initiatives
- formation and execution of data projects

**Members:** The Council members will monitor and provide guidance to S&Q programs to ensure effective and efficient implementation of projects. The Council will review new programs, Guidelines and Clinical Consensus Statements topics, etc. and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Council will be part of peer review and approval process for Guidelines and Clinical Consensus Statements and other documents as required. The Council will serve as an oversight group for vetting members for various panels and workgroups and coordinating conflicts of interest review with the Judicial & Ethics Committee and will provide guidance to the respective S&Q Committees. The Council shall coordinate with other AUA Councils on Science and Quality issues impacting health policy (e.g., AMA resolutions, Legislative Priorities, reimbursement and regulation, etc.).

## Criteria for Selecting New Members

- Prior experience on one or more AUA Committees that report to the council (PGC, QIPS, Data)

## Criteria for Selecting Next Chair

Openings for Science & Quality Chair are announced every four years at the webpage [AUAnet.org/SQChair](http://AUAnet.org/SQChair). A job description highlighting the qualifications is posted on that site. The next search will begin winter of 2025. The Science & Quality Chair is selected by a Board Search Committee.

## Recent Accomplishments 2023

In 2023 the Science & Quality Council continued to provide strategic oversight to shape and execute the science, data, and quality components of AUA's mission to promote the highest standards of urological clinical care in the following three areas:

- Guidelines – produced two new full-length guidelines and five guidelines amendments. For additional information visit <https://www.auanet.org/guidelines-and-quality/guidelines>.
- Data & Statistical Services - The AQUA Registry saw incredible growth in 2023, surpassing 12M included patients from nearly 2,400 providers representing 217 practices. A new AUA Data Research Program was launched to support clinical and workforce research projects using data from the AUA Data Repository to address key knowledge gaps and emerging research questions related to urological care, workforce development, and health policy. For additional information visit <https://www.auanet.org/research-and->



[data.](#)

- Quality & Measurement - CMS approved eight urology-specific AQUA measures for use in MIPS for PY2024. Quality Improvement Summit was held on *Tackling Telehealth: Improving Quality and Access by Integrating Virtual Care in Urology*. For additional information visit <https://www.aunet.org/guidelines-and-quality/quality-and-measurement>.