

## Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) Data Governance Committee Members

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### Leo Lichtig, PhD

Retired Health Economist--New Jersey Department of Health; Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield; Network Consulting; Aon Hewitt. Past faculty affiliations: SUNY-Albany; Sage Graduate School; Union Graduate College/Clarkson University

**Member Years:** DPRB 2003-2014; DGC 2014-present

A recognized expert in health services research and case mix systems, Dr. Lichtig has served on national and regional advisory committees, taught, served as a peer reviewer for professional journals, and served as an expert witness in legal proceedings involving inter-hospital cost comparisons. He is the author of a book on case-mix information systems and numerous articles in health services and clinical journals. Dr. Lichtig began his service to SPARCS on the Department's Data Protection Review Board (DPRB) in 2003. When DPRB was replaced by the Data Governance Committee (DGC) in 2014, he continued to serve.

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### Neil Muscatiello, MS

Director, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, New York State Department of Health

**Member Years:** 2015-present

Neil has worked at the New York State Department of Health since 2002. Neil is the Principal Investigator for the CDC-funded Environmental Public Health Tracking and Building Resilience Against Climate Effects grants. Neil has worked with SPARCS data to develop health outcome indicators at a subcounty level and to perform linkage studies to better understand associations between health outcome indicators and environmental and sociodemographic factors.

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### Paul Rowland, LFACHE, MSW

Retired, Chief Administrative Officer, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

**Member Years:** DPRB 1989-2014, DGC 2014-present

Paul has had a diverse career in acute care, ambulatory and human services planning, research and administration at the regional health planning, medical center, county government and state government levels. He has extensive experience in setting organizational strategic direction, improving overall efficiency and quality of operations, electronic health record (EHR) implementation and interacting with governance boards. Paul was a member of the SPARCS Data Protection Review Board (DPRB) for 25 years and was its Chairperson for 20 of those years. In 2014, Paul was appointed to the successor Data Governance Committee (DGC) as one of two community representatives. Paul presently sits on two non-profit boards involving quality health care review and a medical clinic in rural Haiti.

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## **Kamalnain Siag, MPH, MBBS**

New York State Department of Health, Office of Quality and Patient Safety, Research Scientist

**Member Years:** 2021-present

Kamal has worked for the New York State Department of Health since 2007. He holds a Master of Public Health, Epidemiology from the University at Albany School of Public Health and has dual bachelor's degrees in Medicine and Surgery. From 2003 to 2005, Kamal worked as a Medical officer with the Department of Health, State of Haryana, India as a Medical Officer providing clinical care in outpatient and inpatient settings; and supervised implementation of various government health programs in the health center catchment area. He currently works on the Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) evaluation and is involved in quality measures calculation and evaluation for MLTC program using Medicaid, UAS-NY, SPARCS, and other data sources.

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## **David Williams, MS**

New York State Department of Health, Office of Quality and Patient Safety, Research Scientist

**Member Years:** 2022-present

David began working for the New York State Department of Health in 2016. He holds a master's degree in Biostatistics and a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, both obtained from the University at Albany. He routinely conducts validation of data quality within the SPARCS data set. David has directly worked with SPARCS to produce disease specific reports, public facing quality metrics, data linkages, and public facing dashboards.

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## **Changning Xu, MPH**

New York State Department of Health, Office of Public Health Practice, Research Scientist III

**Member Years:** 2021-present

Changning holds a Master of Public Health degree concentrated in Biostatistics and has 10+ years of experience in population health, chronic disease and perinatal health outcomes surveillance. Familiar with quality measures used in primary care, chronic disease prevention and public insurance programs. Changning specializes in data management and analysis, and works with large complex databases, such as Medicaid, SPARCS, and Vital Records.