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| Vanessa Ridley, JD, MPH | | |
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## Odette Harris, MD, MPH

**Chair**

Dr. Harris serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Rehabilitation at Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) and as the Paralyzed Veterans of America Endowed Professor of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine in the Department of Neurosurgery, Stanford University School of Medicine. She previously served six years on the PAVIR Board of Directors and returned in September 2022 as its Chair after a year away from the Board.

As Deputy Chief of Staff, Rehabilitation at VAPAHCS, Dr. Harris is responsible for the varied programs of the Polytrauma System of Care, Spinal Cord Injury, Blind Rehabilitation Services, Recreational Therapy and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

In her role as Director of Brain Injury for Stanford Medical Center, Dr. Odette Harris manages and coordinates the medical and surgical care of all patients suffering from traumatic brain injury admitted to the Stanford System. She focuses on implementing and streamlining current treatment algorithms aimed at improving the outcomes of this growing population. The primary focus is specific not only to mortality, but to functional outcome improvements with an emphasis on the role of gender in traumatic brain injury and its treatment.

Dr. Harris graduated from Dartmouth College and received her MD degree from Stanford University School of Medicine. She received numerous academic and research awards at both institutions. She also earned a Master of Public Health, Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Upon completing her neurosurgical residency, Dr. Harris was awarded the William Van Wagenen Fellowship from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. She completed her research related to this fellowship at the University of West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica where she currently serves as Visiting Consultant in Neurosurgery.

Dr. Harris has authored several scientific articles and books, is a member of several editorial boards and national committees including as the Associate Editor for Neurosurgery and as an appointed Member, National Football League (NFL) Head, Neck and Spine Committee. She also serves on several Boards and is a Trustee for the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, the Castilleja School and Dartmouth College. She is a Fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Harris was appointed a Fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network in 2018. She was recognized in 2019 by Forbes and Ebony Magazine Power 100 List Award as one of 100 most influential African Americans and received the National Medical Fellowships (NMF) Award for Excellence in Academic Medicine.

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## Maheen Adamson, PhD

**Director**

Dr. Maheen Mausoof Adamson is Director of Research for Women's Operational Military Exposure Network (WOMEN), Senior Scientist for Rehabilitation Services at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, and clinical professor of Neurosurgery at Stanford School of Medicine. Dr. Adamson completed her undergraduate degrees in neurobiology and women's studies at the University of California, Irvine. She completed her Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Southern California and a postdoctoral fellowship in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford School of Medicine. She recently completed a Master's in Healthcare Leadership at Brown University and Biodesign Faculty fellowship at Stanford University.

Dr. Adamson has had over 15 years of experience employing translational neuroscience methodologies for improvements in diagnosis and treatments for frequent health problems in Veterans. She has been a leader in identifying gender differences in brain injury, particularly in the Veteran population. She currently serves as PI and Site-PI on numerous neuromodulation clinical trials and collaborates internationally for developing advanced diagnostic methods in neuroimaging, especially in underserved communities. In her position at VA Palo Alto, she is actively involved in translating evidenced-based research on the impact of exposures on overall health in women Veterans into clinical settings and educational products.

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## Charles Faselis, MD

**Chief of Staff**

Dr. Charles Faselis is Chief of Staff at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean at Stanford University School of Medicine. His clinical work is in hospital medicine, and he has spent much of his career caring for Veterans while serving in senior academic and leadership roles within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to joining VA Palo Alto, he served for many years at the Washington DC VA Medical Center, including as Chief of Staff and Chief of Medicine Service, while also holding academic appointments at George Washington University and the Uniformed Services University.

Dr. Faselis received his medical degree from the National University of Athens in Greece and completed his residency training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, where he also served as Chief Resident. His clinical and research interests focus on the effect of cardiorespiratory fitness on chronic disease, population health, traumatic brain injury, and outcomes research in Veterans. He has led or collaborated on multiple national VA research initiatives involving epidemiology, genomics, and artificial intelligence applications in healthcare. Dr. Faselis has received several teaching and leadership awards and is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society.

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## Jean Gurga, MA, OTR/L

**Director**

Jean J. Gurga was appointed Executive Medical Center Director of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System on July 17, 2023. In this role she oversees one of the most complex facilities in the VA system with an annual budget in excess of $1B, and more than 7,000 employees and volunteers.

Ms. Gurga has over 26 years of VA experience in Quality, Ambulatory Care, and Occupational Therapy. Prior to her appointment as the Interim Medical Center Director at VA Palo Alto, she was Medical Center Director in Kansas City and in Northern Arizona. Prior to Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, she served as Associate Director at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System.

Ms. Gurga's previous positions also include the Chief, Office of Quality, Safety & Value (QSV) at VA Palo Alto. In that role, she was responsible for leading the operations and strategic direction for QSV with programmatic responsibilities for Quality & Safety, Infection Prevention & Control, Patient Experience, Process Improvement, and the Office of Education. In addition, Ms. Gurga worked closely with executive leadership in building VA Palo Alto's continuous improvement infrastructure and the deployment of their Lean management system. For several years, she coached and facilitated improvement projects at the local, network, and national level. Ms. Gurga formerly served as the Assistant Chief of Ambulatory Care Service and was an occupational therapist for 10 years with her last clinical position being Chief of Occupational Therapy at Palo Alto.

Ms. Gurga is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives. She holds a master's degree in occupational therapy from Tufts University - Boston School of Occupational Therapy, and a bachelor's degree in business economics from Mills College. In 2011 she graduated from the Partnership for Public Service's Excellence in Government Fellows Program, and in 2017 Ms. Gurga graduated from Veterans Health Administration's Health Care Leadership Development Program.

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## Paul Heidenreich, MD

**Director and Secretary/Treasurer**

Dr. Paul Heidenreich is Chief of Medicine at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and Professor and Vice-Chair for Quality in the Department of Medicine in the Stanford University School of Medicine. He is a practicing non-invasive cardiologist and active health services researcher. Dr. Heidenreich has an extensive background in outcomes, quality of care and technology assessment. He is a recipient of a Life-Time Achievement Award from the American Heart Association Council for Quality of Care and Outcomes Research.

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## Ngan Huang, PhD

**Director**

Ngan F. Huang is a Research Career Scientist at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System and an Associate Professor in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University. Dr. Huang completed her BS in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, followed by a PhD in bioengineering from the University of California Berkeley & University of California San Francisco Joint Program

in Bioengineering.

Her laboratory investigates the interactions between stem cells and extracellular matrix microenvironment for engineering cardiovascular tissues to treat cardiovascular and musculoskeletal diseases. Recent research focuses on the role of microgravity for drug screening of engineered muscle tissue. Dr. Huang has authored over 90 publications and patents, including those in *Nat Med*, *PNAS*, and *Circ Res*. She has received numerous honors, including a NIH K99/R00 Career Development Award, Fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA), a Young Investigator award from the Society for Vascular Medicine, a Young Investigator Award from the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society-Americas, and a Rising Star award at the Cell & Molecular Bioengineering conference. She recently received the Society for Biomaterials Mid-Career award and the Alan Hirsch Mid-Career Award in Vascular Medicine from the American Heart Association. She has active or completed projects funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, AHA, Department of Defense, California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, and Department of Veteran Affairs.

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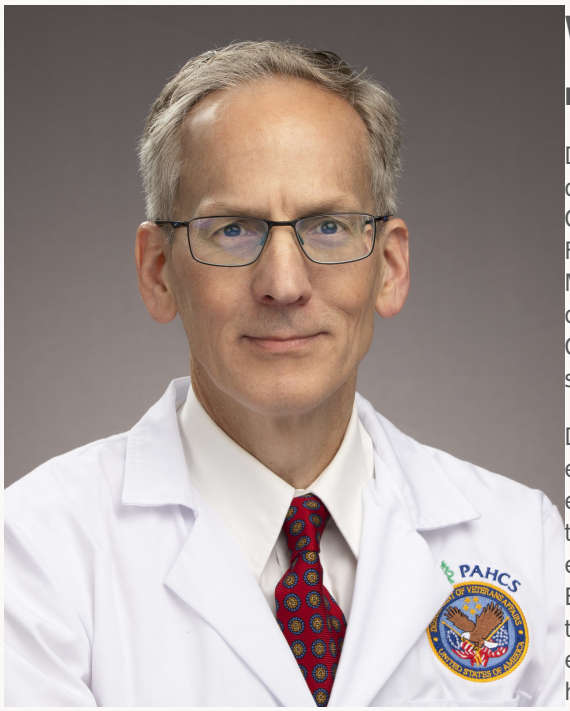
## Meghan Kemnec, ND

**Director**

Meghan Kemnec is a Naturopathic Doctor in private practice with a focus on primary care and preventative medicine. She is a Veteran who graduated from the US Naval Academy and later earned a Master of Business Administration prior to her medical studies. She is passionate about patient education as being an integral part of providing the best care. She successfully creates a safe space for patients and focuses on building relationships with patients to support and maintain continuity of care and effective case management. Dr. Kemnec joined the PAVIR Board of Directors in 2021.

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## Ware Kuschner, MD

**Director**

Dr. Kuschner is a practicing pulmonologist-intensivist and Section Chief of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. He is a Professor of Medicine and Associate Chief for Faculty Affairs in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy & Critical Care Medicine at Stanford University. Dr. Kuschner serves as Medical Director of TeleQuit - the Veterans Integrated Service Network 21 Smoking Cessation Program. He also directs the VAPAHCS Bioethics consultation service.

Dr. Kuschner has an academic interest in occupational and environmental lung disease. He has conducted experimental human exposure studies characterizing the acute health effects of inhaled toxicants and population-based observational research studying health effects attributable to hazardous airborne exposures. He serves on the Executive Committee of a VA Cooperative Studies Program investigation that is characterizing the impact of deployment-related pollution exposures during the post-9/11 Gulf War Era on current respiratory health. He also conducts industry sponsored investigations of potential pulmonary therapeutics and novel diagnostic tests for lung cancer.

Dr. Kuschner earned his M.D. from Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City and he completed his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Kuschner was appointed Chair of the VAPAHCS Research and Development Committee and joined the PAVIR Board of Directors in 2023.

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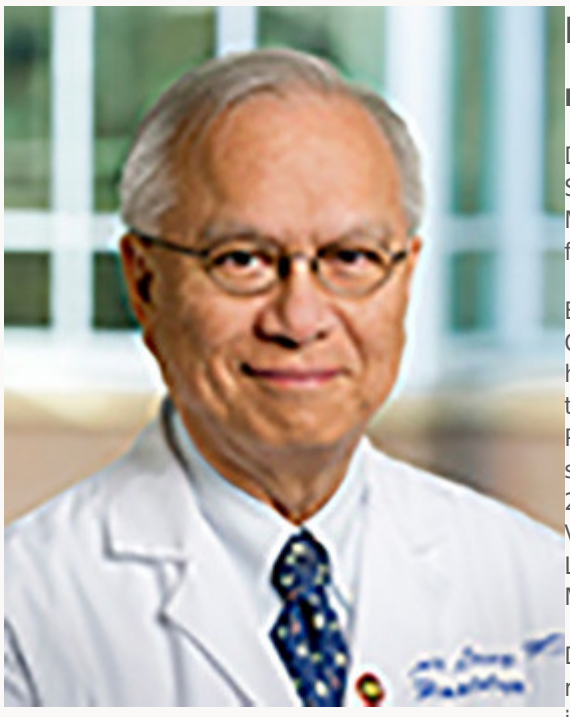


## Jennifer Lee, MD, PhD, MBA

**Director**

Dr. Jennifer Lee is a leader in advancing research and innovative solutions for Veteran care and the VA health care system. Dr. Lee is Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology, Gerontology, Metabolism) and by courtesy, of Epidemiology and Population Health, at Stanford School of Medicine. At VA Palo Health Care System (VAPAHCS), Dr. Lee is Associate Chief of Staff for Research & Development and Deputy Chief of Staff for Innovation, Research, Advanced Analytics. She serves as Director of both the National Center for Collaborative Healthcare Innovation (NCCHI) and the VA Convergence Center (VC2) for Innovation, Simulation Learning, and Clinical Informatics. An endocrinologist and molecular epidemiologist, Dr. Lee focuses on leveraging data, precision health methods, and technologies to translate discovery to healthcare operations for patient outcomes and health care system access/delivery. Her research includes leading a VA national data initiative, Leveraging EHR to Advance Precision medicine (LEAP), and conducting cardiometabolic studies in the VA Million Veteran Program. Dr. Lee joined the PAVIR Board of Directors in 2018.

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## Lawrence L. Leung, MD

**Director**

Dr. Lawrence L. Leung is a Staff Physician at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and the Maureen Lyles D'Ambrogio Professor in the School of Medicine. He was the VA Palo Alto Health Care System Chief of Staff from 2006 to 2020.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Dr. Leung received his M.D. in 1975 from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He completed his medical residency and obtained his hematology-oncology fellowship training at Cornell-New York Hospital. In 2002, he was promoted to Professor of Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine and served as Chief of the Division of Hematology from 1995 until February 2004, when he assumed the position of Chief of Medical Service at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. In 2004, he was awarded the Maureen Lyles D'Ambrogio endowed professorship in the Stanford School of Medicine.

Dr. Leung's clinical interest is in bleeding and thrombotic disorders. His research focuses on blood clotting factors and their roles in thrombosis, inflammation and immunity, and the emerging field of personalized genomic medicine. Dr. Leung is a member of the Association of American Physicians, American Society for Clinical Investigation, American Society of Hematology, and the American Heart Association. He has served on study sections of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Hematology Subspecialty Board of the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Leung has served on the PAVIR Board since 2006.

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## Payam Massaband, MD

**Director**

Dr. Massaband serves as the Associate Chief of Staff for Education at VAPAHCS and Vice Chair in the Stanford University Department of Radiology. He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a B.S. in Neuroscience and from Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. He has been a staff radiologist specializing in musculoskeletal and cardiovascular imaging since he completed Stanford Radiology Residency and Fellowship in 2010. He has previously served as the Chief of Radiology and Deputy Chief of Staff for Clinical Support Services at the VA Palo Alto and the Stanford Radiology Residency Program Director. As clinical associate professor and through these administrative roles he concentrates on clinical excellence, process improvement and residency education. He has a deep passion for furthering Veteran health and developing programs to provide the best care anywhere at VAPAHCS. Dr. Massaband joined the PAVIR Board in 2022.



## Shriram Nallamshetty, MD

**Director**

Dr. Shriram Nallamshetty is a board-certified cardiologist and clinician-investigator whose research program focuses on precision prevention in cardiometabolic disorders. He serves as Director of Cardiovascular Research at the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System and Clinical Associate Professor (Affiliated) in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine. His investigative work integrates electronic health records, population-scale biomarkers, multi-omic discovery platforms, and artificial intelligence to build risk prediction models that enable individualized cardiovascular prevention and chronic disease management at health system scale.

A central pillar of Dr. Nallamshetty's research portfolio is his work on the cardiovascular consequences of military toxic exposures. As Principal Investigator of a Department of Defense Toxic Exposures Research Program award (TX250211), administered through PAVIR, he is leading a multidisciplinary study leveraging advanced cardiac imaging, induced pluripotent stem cell–derived 3D engineered heart tissue models, and pre-clinical platforms to characterize endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition and cardiovascular disease phenotypes in Veterans with open-air burn pit exposures. This program builds on a PAVIR seed grant and is complemented by a VA Shared Equipment Evaluation Program award supporting advanced cardiovascular phenotyping in exposed Veterans, establishing VA Palo Alto as a national hub for understanding the

long-term cardiovascular impact of military environmental hazards.

Dr. Nallamshetty serves as Site Principal Investigator on several major clinical trials advancing precision prevention, including VICTORION-2-PREVENT (siRNA-based LDL-lowering therapy), TRANSFORM (AI-guided coronary CT imaging for primary prevention), and the VA Cooperative Studies Program GOURMET-VA trial (medically-tailored meals following heart failure hospitalization). He serves as National Ambassador for the VA/American Heart Association VALOR Lipid Optimization Program and as a member of the AHA's Lipoprotein(a) Federally Qualified Health Centers Science Advisory Panel. He previously served as Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development at VA Palo Alto, where he co-led the establishment of the Clinical Research and Innovation Unit in 2025. Dr. Nallamshetty received his M.D. from Duke University School of Medicine, completed internal medicine residency and chief residency at Stanford, and completed cardiology fellowship training at Massachusetts General Hospital and a cardiometabolic disorders fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

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## Vanessa Ridley, JD, MPH

**Director**

Vanessa Ridley is the Chief Compliance & Privacy Officer at University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Health, where she has served since 2017. In her role, Ms. Ridley leads a team of compliance professionals who safeguard public trust by empowering the institution to uphold the highest legal and ethical standards related to healthcare business integrity and privacy protections. Prior to her role at UCSF, Ms. Ridley held executive positions in healthcare compliance and ethics at the University of California Office of the President and the County of Santa Clara Health System. Ms. Ridley also brings extensive experience from her prior career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where she served in key roles including Administrative Officer for Research & Development at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

Ms. Ridley holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Harvard Law School, a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and a B.A. in Sociology, magna cum laude, from UC San Diego. She was awarded a post-graduate Presidential Management Fellowship, which she completed with the Veterans Health Administration.

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## Robert Sloss, JD

**Director**

Bob Sloss is a partner at the law firm Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP. He practices in intellectual property counseling and litigation, with experience in litigating patents related to a variety of technologies, including software, computer peripherals, mechanical devices and biotechnology, as well as matters involving copyright, trademark and trade secrets.

Mr. Sloss has appeared in courts throughout the U.S. and before the International Trade Commission and the Patent Trial and Appeals Board. He is admitted to practice in California State Courts, the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Federal and Ninth Circuits, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Central and Eastern Districts of California, and the District of Colorado.

After receiving a B.A. in History, and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, both from Stanford, Mr. Sloss went on to earn his J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of the Law in 1979. He has been recognized by his peers for his high level of professional excellence with the Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent Rating. Mr. Sloss joined the

PAVIR Board of Directors in 2017.

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