David Charles, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Alliance for Patient Access

AfPA is led by David Charles, M.D., who is the Chief Medical Officer of the Vanderbilt University Clinical Neurosciences Institute. Dr. Charles is a national leader in Movement Disorders research. He took leave from his practice in 1998 and spent a year on the staff of U.S. Senator Bill Frist, where he served as a health policy advisor. Following this experience in Washington, Dr. Charles conducted Parkinson’s disease research in France as a Fulbright Senior Scholar.

Josie Cooper

Executive Director, Alliance for Patient Access

Josie Cooper serves as executive director of the Alliance for Patient Access. At AfPA, Ms. Cooper has worked in stakeholder and clinician mobilization, developing policy and educational strategies to improve patient access to care.

Ms. Cooper has a background in communications, research, grassroots organization and campaign politics. Ms. Cooper has worked at the state and national level advising political campaigns and public affairs clients on supporter and stakeholder mobilization. She has worked on major races across the country, from presidential campaigns to Senate and congressional races. Prior to joining AfPA, Ms. Cooper worked for a DC-based consulting firm and for a trade association representing biotechnology companies.

Adina Lasser

Public Policy Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Adina Lasser serves on the Alliance’s public policy and advocacy team. Her background is in health policy, patient advocacy, contract lobbying, and health economics. Adina holds a B.S. in Economics from the University of South Carolina.
Jay Reinstein

Patient Advocate

Jay Reinstein is an outspoken advocate for those diagnosed with Younger-Onset Alzheimer’s. Reinstein spent 25 years in local government, most recently serving as the Assistant City Manager in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Jay was appointed to the Alzheimer’s Association’s National Board of Directors in Chicago and served until October 2021. He was also selected to serve as a member of the Alzheimer’s Association 2019-2020 National Early-Stage Advisory Group. Since being appointed to the Alzheimer’s Board of Directors, Jay has appeared in articles with the NY Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Politico, The Economist, Chicago Tribune, Bloomberg News, Parade Magazine, to name a few. Jay also serves on the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Aging Research.

Michelle Winokur, DrPH

Executive Director, Institute for Patient Access

Michelle Winokur serves as Executive Director of the Institute for Patient Access where she leads the development of the organization’s educational content, policy blog, data analysis projects and medical education.

Prior to working with IfPA, Michelle developed educational content for health care clients as a member of the communications team at a DC-based public affairs firm. Before that, she spent more than a decade in public service including executive roles in the offices of Florida’s governor and chief financial officer as well as at the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health. She also worked for several years as a management consultant, an adjunct professor and has led a niche medical society.

Michelle earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Florida State University. She also has a Doctorate of Public Health in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Florida A&M University. She and her husband reside in Tallahassee, Florida with their spirited toddler son.