



September 23, 2026

**An Open Letter to the New Members of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
Congratulations and an Opportunity to Advance Modern Preventive Care**

To: Seth J. Corey, MD, MPH, Chair, and Members of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

CC:

- Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Roger D. Klein, MD, JD, Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Dear Dr. Corey and Members of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force,

On behalf of the Society for Heart Attack Prevention and Eradication (SHAPE), the American Society for Preventive Cardiology (ASPC) and our colleagues in preventive medicine, cardiovascular disease, imaging, and early disease detection, we congratulate you on your appointments to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

We are particularly encouraged by the breadth of expertise represented among the new members, including preventive cardiology, cardiovascular imaging, artificial intelligence, diagnostic radiology, primary care, early disease detection, evidence evaluation, and health economics.

We believe this is an important moment to broaden scientific discussion about how the USPSTF can maintain its high standards of evidence while also keeping pace with rapidly evolving preventive science. Among the areas we hope the new Task Force will consider are:

- 1. More timely incorporation of emerging evidence.** We hope approaches can be adopted that allow the Task Force to identify and evaluate important new evidence more continuously.
- 2. Greater consideration of early disease detection.** Modern imaging and biomarkers increasingly allow us to identify subclinical disease before symptoms occur. Prevention should include an ongoing scientific discussion about when detecting disease itself, rather than relying primarily on risk factors, can meaningfully improve patient care.
- 3. Earlier engagement with specialty experts and scientific organizations.** The USPSTF already incorporates expert review and public comment into its process. We would welcome opportunities for deeper scientific exchange with organizations and investigators working at the forefront of rapidly developing areas of prevention.
- 4. Judicious use of modern evidence sources.** Randomized clinical trials remain critically important, but selective use of large prospective cohorts, registries, real-world evidence, validated

modeling, and other contemporary methods may provide additional information when direct long-term randomized evidence is not yet available.

- 5. Greater transparency regarding evidence gaps and research priorities.** When available evidence is considered insufficient for a recommendation, clearly defining the specific evidence needed could help investigators, funding agencies, professional societies, and industry design studies capable of answering those questions.

Cardiovascular disease provides an important example. Much of contemporary cardiovascular prevention is moving toward identifying subclinical disease before clinical events occur. We hope this new chapter creates an opportunity to combine the Task Force's tradition of rigorous evidence assessment with greater speed, scientific adaptability, and engagement with advances in early detection and precision prevention.

ASPC, SHAPE and the undersigned physicians, scientists, and public health leaders would welcome the opportunity to contribute constructively to this discussion and to share relevant evidence from cardiovascular disease prevention, imaging, and early disease detection.

Once again, congratulations on your appointments. We wish you success in this important responsibility and look forward to productive scientific dialogue.

Respectfully,

David J. Maron, M.D.
President
American Society for Preventive Cardiology (ASPC)

Signed by:
David J. Maron, M.D.
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Morteza Naghavi, M.D.
President
Society for Heart Attack Prevention and Eradication (SHAPE)

Signed by:
Morteza Naghavi, M.D.
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On behalf of the Signatories (listed in alphabetic order):

- 1. George Abela, MD, MSc, FACC**
Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); Director, Interventional Cardiology Research; Michigan State University College of Human Medicine; Internationally recognized investigator in coronary calcification and plaque biology
- 2. Arthur Agatston, MD, FACC**
Clinical Professor of Medicine; Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Founder and Medical Director, South Beach Preventive Cardiology; Developer of the Agatston Coronary Calcium Score
- 3. AmirAli Ahmadi, MD, FACC, FSCCT**
Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); Director of Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Guideline author and leader in cardiovascular CT and preventive cardiology

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4. **Daniel S. Berman, MD, FACC, FAHA**
Professor of Cardiology and Imaging; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Past President, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology; Pioneer in cardiac imaging and outcomes research
 5. **Michael J. Blaha, MD, MPH, FACC**
Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); Director of Clinical Research, Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease; Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
 6. **Ron Blankstein, MD, FACC, FSCCT**
Professor of Medicine and Radiology; Director of Cardiac CT; Brigham and Women's Hospital; Harvard Medical School
 7. **Andrea Branch, PhD**
Professor of Medicine; Director of Basic and Translational Research in the Institute of Liver Medicine; Associate Professor of Surgery; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
 8. **Pamela S. Douglas, MD, MACC**
Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); Duke University School of Medicine; Past President, American College of Cardiology; Former Chair, ACC Imaging Council
 9. **Zahi A. Fayad, PhD**
Professor of Radiology and Medicine; Director, BioMedical Engineering and Imaging Institute; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Global leader in atherosclerosis imaging
 10. **Jonathan A. Fialkow, M.D., FACC, FAHA**
Chief Medical Executive Integrated Services and Precision Care, Baptist Health South Florida. Medical Director, MCVI Lipid and Cardiometabolic Center, Clinical Associate Professor, Florida International University, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
 11. **Ilya Gipp, MD, PhD**
Chief Medical Officer for Oncology at GE HealthCare implementing clinical strategy for solutions in cancer care.
 12. **Philip Greenland, MD**
Professor of Preventive Medicine and Medicine (Cardiology); Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; Former Chair, ACC/AHA Prevention Guidelines; Internationally recognized leader in cardiovascular epidemiology, risk assessment, and primary prevention
 13. **Martha Gulati, MD, MS, FACC, FAHA, FASPC, FESC**
Director, Davis Women Heart Center at Cedars Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, Immediate Past President, American Society for Preventive Cardiology
 14. **Rob Headrick, MD**
Thoracic Surgeon; Founder and Chief Executive Officer, BreathEazy™ Mobile Lung Cancer Screening; Leader in mobile CT-based lung cancer screening, early detection, and population health implementation
 15. **Claudia I. Henschke, MD, PhD**
Professor of Radiology; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Founder and Principal Investigator, International Early Lung Cancer Action Program (IELCAP)

16. Sina Kianoush, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at University of California Irvine; Academic investigator in preventive cardiology and cardiovascular epidemiology

17. Robert A. Kloner, MD, PhD

Chief Science Officer, Director and Chair of Cardiovascular Research Institute, Huntington Medical Research Institutes, Pasadena, CA; Professor of Medicine (Clinical Scholar), Cardiovascular Division, Dept. of Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California; Visting Associate in Aerospace, Division of Engineering and Applied Science, California Institute of Technology

18. Peter Libby, MD

Mallinckrodt Professor of Medicine; Harvard Medical School; Cardiologist, Mass General Brigham; Co-Director Mass General Brigham Center for Inflammation Imaging. President, Residual Risk Reduction Initiative (R3i Foundation), Immediate Past President, International Atherosclerosis Society, Executive Editor, European Heart Journal. Medical Director Center of Excellence in Vascular Biology

19. David J. Maron, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASPC

C.F. Rehnborg Professor of Medicine; Chief, Stanford Prevention Research Center; Stanford University School of Medicine; President, American Society for Preventive Cardiology

20. Michael V. McConnell, MD, MSEE, FACC

Clinical Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine; International leader in cardiovascular imaging, AI, and prevention; Author of *Fight Heart Disease Like Cancer*

21. Oren Mechanic, MD, MPH

Senior Clinical Consultant at the Agatston Center for Preventive Medicine and AI-CVD Co-investigator

22. Jeffrey I. Mechanick, MD, PhD(hc), FACP, MACE, FACN, FASPEN

Professor of Medicine; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Past President, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, American College of Endocrinology, and American Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists

23. Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC

Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Vice President, American College of Cardiology; Incoming President, American College of Cardiology; International leader in interventional cardiology, clinical trials, and cardiovascular outcomes research

24. Sabee Molloy, PhD

Professor and Vice Chairman of Research Department of Radiological Sciences; University of California, Irvine; Director, Imaging Physics Laboratory

25. James Mulshine, MD

Professor of Internal Medicine; Center for Healthy Aging Rush University; Vice Chair and Scientific Director, Prevent Cancer Foundation, International leader in lung cancer screening and prevention research

26. Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, FACC

K. Lance Gould Distinguished University Chair of Coronary Pathophysiology, UT Health McGovern Medical College. Executive Director, Cardiovascular Institute, UT Health and Memorial Hermann Health Hospital

27. Khurram Nasir, MD MPH MSc

William A. Zoghbi Centennial Chair in Cardiovascular Health, Division Chief, Cardiovascular Prevention and Wellness, Co-Director Houston Methodist-Rice Digital Health Institute (HM-Rice DHI)
Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College

28. Koen Nieman, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) and Radiology; Stanford University School of Medicine; Associate Editor, Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC); International authority in coronary CT angiography and cardiovascular imaging

29. Bruce Pyenson, FSA, MAAA

Principal and Consulting Actuary; Health policy expert in Medicare data analysis for preventive services and healthcare economics

30. Paolo Raggi, MD, FACC

Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); University of Alberta; Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology, Emory University; Co-Editor, Atherosclerosis. Expert in coronary artery calcium and cardiovascular prevention

31. Jamal S. Rana MD, PhD, FACC

Chair, Medical Specialties & Interventional Services, Kaiser Permanente Oakland. Professor, Department of Clinical Science, Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine

32. Anthony P. Reeves, PhD

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Cornell University; Director, Center for Biomedical Imaging and Diagnostics; Expert in machine learning CT-based lung cancer screening

33. Paul M. Ridker, MD, MPH

Eugene Braunwald Professor of Medicine; Harvard Medical School; Director, Center for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention; Brigham and Women's Hospital; World authority in inflammation and atherosclerosis

34. Neil M. Rofsky, MD, MHA, FACR, FISMRRM, FSAB

Professor and Chair of Radiology; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Radiologist-in-Chief, Mount Sinai Health System; Former Chair of Radiology, UT Southwestern Medical Center; National leader in advanced medical imaging, MRI innovation, and academic radiology leadership

35. Alexander T. Sandhu, MD, MS, FACC, FAHA

Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; Health services and outcomes researcher with expertise in cardiovascular imaging, comparative effectiveness research, and population-level cardiovascular disease outcomes

36. Prediman K. Shah, MD

Shapell and Webb Chair in Clinical Cardiology ,Director , Oppenheimer Atherosclerosis Research Center and Atherosclerosis Prevention and Treatment Center, Cedars-Sinai Smidt Heart Institute, Distinguished Professor of Medicine at UCLA

37. Leslee J. Shaw, PhD

Professor of Medicine; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Director of Outcomes Research; Past President, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT); Internationally recognized leader in cardiovascular imaging outcomes research and population-based risk assessment

38. Gregg W. Stone, MD, FACC, MSCAI

Professor of Medicine (Cardiology); Professor of Population Health Sciences and Policy; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Principal Investigator and Study Chair for multiple landmark international cardiovascular clinical trials

39. Renu Virmani, MD

Founder and President, CVPPath Institute; Clinical Professor of Pathology; Georgetown University School of Medicine; World-renowned authority on atherosclerotic plaque pathology, vulnerable plaque mechanisms, and the histopathologic foundations of coronary artery disease

40. Kim Allan Williams Sr., MD, MACC, FAHA, MASNC, FESC

Legacy Foundation of Kentuckiana Endowed Chair in Health Equity, Professor and Chair, Department of Internal Medicine, Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Disease Reversal and Prevention

41. Nathan D. Wong, PhD, MPH, FACC, FAHA, FNLA, MASPC,

Professor of Medicine; Director, Heart Disease Prevention Program; Co-Director, Center for Global Cardiometabolic Health and Nutrition, University of California, Irvine; Past President, American Society for Preventive Cardiology; Internationally recognized expert in cardiovascular epidemiology, preventive cardiology and coronary artery calcium–based risk assessment

42. David F. Yankelevitz, MD

Professor of Radiology; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Director, Lung Cancer Screening Program; Co-Principal Investigator, International Early Lung Cancer Action Program (IELCAP); Pioneer in CT-based early detection of lung cancer

43. JoAnne Zawitoski, JD Chairwoman Society for Heart Attack Prevention and Eradication (SHAPE)

44. Javier Zulueta, MD, PhD

Adjunct Professor of Pulmonology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Chief Medical Officer Qure.ai, World authority in emphysema and CT-based lung nodule incidental screening initiatives