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THE ROLE OF EXPERTS IN GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

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While multiple organizations, including the Guidelines International Network, the US National Academy of Medicine and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, have published standards for developing trustworthy guidelines, the role of experts on guideline committees remains controversial and unevenly applied. For this session, experts may be defined as individuals who have particular expertise in the subject matter based on their clinical specialty or funded research focus, and those who represent the experience and views of practitioners directly affected by the guideline. Most guideline developers recognize the important role of experts, and many strive to include experts among a multidisciplinary group of developers while managing the experts' conflicts of interests. Recently, as a result controversies in guideline conclusions about appropriate Hemoglobin A1c targets for patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, there has been renewed interest in approaches to balance the important role of experts in guideline development with the potential for conflict of interest. Using the diabetes controversy as an example, this talk will review how the use of experts may have influenced interpretation of evidence across six different diabetes guidelines, and review established and emerging approaches for minimizing conflict while incorporating the view of experts.