



### **Coach for the Staff Mentoring Program**

Barbara Messinger-Rapport grew up in the New Haven area and despite living in Massachusetts, Texas, Delaware, and Ohio never lost that weird twang. She became interested in becoming a mission specialist for NASA, and obtained an MD/PhD (PhD in biomedical engineering) as part of that process. She was then nominated as a military mission specialist for a specialized NASA flight in 1993 but did not make it through the remainder of the selection process. While listening to NPR in Dover, Delaware, she heard a children's choir based in Cleveland. She decided she wanted her two children to sing in that choir and insisted on moving to Cleveland in 1995 despite the absence of evidence for any musical talent in either child. In 1998 she joined the Geriatrics Section of the General Internal Medicine department of the Cleveland Clinic and is now the Program Director for the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship and also the Director of the Center for Geriatric Medicine of the Medicine Institute. Although one of her children agreed to sing in the choir and is now in the OSU school of music (majoring in jazz piano performance), the other refused to sing and did no other extra-curricular activities other than running, biking, and tennis. He is now a student in the OSU physics department but still has a 90+ mph serve. A true disappointment!

During her years at Cleveland Clinic she has discovered that a staff member can wear multiple hats- be director of a new program but be able to learn management and administrative methods from younger but more experienced administrators; be the program chair of a fellowship program but find that a fellow who had extensive training outside the country might have a different and helpful perspective on a clinical or ethical problem. She has learned that some advice she encountered along the way was helpful; other advice was not. She would like to extend the benefit of her experience in negotiating the Cleveland Clinic culture to you, and maybe even learn new things along the way. The coach concept should be a very useful model in which we can work together on issues important to you.

Her hobbies are cycling, skate-skiing, tennis, and reading. Most recent book is Three Cups of Tea. Her hang-outs are Arabica in University Circle, Mad Greek in Cedar-Fairmount, Chapin Forest in Kirtland, and the Popcorn Shoppe in Chagrin Falls. She is a Facebook fan of Lance Armstrong.