

VA QUALITY SCHOLARS DIRECTORY OF FACULTY AND FELLOWS



*2016/2017
Academic Year*

Contents

Atlanta	3
Birmingham	7
Cleveland	8
Iowa City	11
Los Angeles	13
Nashville	16
San Francisco	21
White River Junction.....	24
Toronto	28
VAQS Coordinating Center.....	31

Atlanta

Senior Faculty Scholars

Carolyn Clevenger, RN, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, GNP-BC, FAANP

Dr. Clevenger's work focuses on models of care that support or challenge the care of older adults and persons with dementia. Specific projects include reducing inappropriate prescriptions for older adults discharged from the emergency department and implementation of primary palliative care in multiple settings including critical care, hematology-oncology and the emergency unit.



Contact: ccleven@emory.edu

Key Words: Geriatrics, dementia, innovative practice models

Anne Tomolo, MD, MPH

I am the Section Chief for Quality Medicine at the Atlanta VAMC. In that role I lead clinical quality improvement initiatives for Medical Service. I also mentor the Internal Medicine Chief Resident for Quality and Patient Safety and work collaboratively to develop and implement graduate medical education training in quality improvement. I am leading the development of a new Specialty Care Education Center of Excellence in Cognitive Disorders at the Atlanta VAMC. The goal of this three-year initiative is to foster transformation of clinical education and patient care by preparing graduates of health professional schools and programs to work in and lead patient centered interprofessional teams providing specialty care in the setting of coordinated longitudinal primary



care. My role as faculty in Emory University School of Medicine focuses upon the development and implementation of undergraduate, graduate, and interprofessional training in quality improvement. My clinical practice is on the inpatient General Medicine Services at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.

Contact: anne.tomolo2@va.gov

Key Words: Interprofessional education, quality improvement, and collaborative practice models

Faculty Scholars

Corrine Abraham, DNP, RN

As a doctoral student I focused on implementation of evidence based practice and Quality Improvement methods to mitigate central-line associated bloodstream infections in an ICU setting. As a VAQS Fellow I led an inter-disciplinary team to develop a Falls Prevention Program to minimize modifiable risks for injury across the entire Atlanta VA Medical Center health system. I also partnered with colleagues from multiple disciplines leading efforts to improve the safety and quality of care for Veterans afflicted with chronic non-cancer pain. In January 2015 Anne Tomolo and I received funding from the Office of Academic Affiliations for our Cognitive Disorders Specialty Care Education Center of Excellence at the Atlanta VA Medical Center to redesign specialty care services - providing an inter-professional approach to the care of Veterans with cognitive disorders. Teaching DNP students, mentoring practicing nurses, and serving as Co-Director of the Cognitive Disorders Specialty Care Education Center of Excellence (SCE COE) provide opportunities for me to transform inter-professional education, to build capacity in EBP/quality



improvement methods, and to provide leadership in redesigning care delivery.

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Key Words: Inter-professional education; quality improvement; on-line/blended educational methods

Sheila Rauch, PhD



Dr. Rauch is the Clinical Director of the Emory University Veterans Program and Associate Professor at Emory University School of Medicine and Director of Research and Program Evaluation in the Mental Health Service at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Dr. Rauch has been providing PTSD and Anxiety Disorders treatment for over 20 years. She is currently Principal Investigator of two PTSD treatment outcome and mechanisms trials including a DOD funded, multi-site PTSD treatment trial comparing prolonged exposure and sertraline and a VA/DOD collaboratively funded trial examining biomarkers in active duty military service members completing psychotherapy. She has served as a VHA Prolonged Exposure Therapy Roll Out Trainer since the start of the program. Dr. Rauch's research focuses on translational treatment outcomes and modifications of proven treatments for use in alternate settings, such as primary care. She has published scholarly articles and book chapters in the areas of anxiety disorders and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) focusing on neurobiology and factors involved in the development, maintenance, and treatment of anxiety disorders, psychosocial factors in medical settings, and the relation between physical health and anxiety. Dr. Rauch has been involved in the modification and adaptation of proven psychotherapeutic interventions for anxiety disorders for various populations and settings, including primary care.

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Emeritus Scholar

Bethany Robertson, DNP, CNM



Dr. Robertson is the Vice President and Chief Learning Officer at WellStar Health System, an 11 hospital integrated healthcare system in Atlanta, Georgia with over 20,000 employees, 240 medical group practices, 1000+ employed physicians and advanced practice professional and 2,800+ licensed beds. She received her Baccalaureate in Nursing from the University of Virginia, Master of Nursing from the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University, Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree from the Medical College of Georgia and is a Certified Nurse Midwife. In her role as the Chief Learning Officer, she leads the organization's corporate University, Organizational Learning, ensuring successful onboarding and ongoing professional development for all of WellStar's team members. She has lead large scale initiatives for the organization such as a standardized competency model for onboarding and annual competencies, system wide safety training, centralized onboarding and training for nurses, electronic record implementation and has served as the administrative lead for establishing the system's first graduate medical education program at Kennestone Regional Medical Center. She has served as an interim Chief Nursing Officer at WellStar Cobb Hospital where she focused on sustained efforts around quality, safety and the patient's experience. She has served as clinical assistant professor at Emory's School of Nursing where she co-lead the production and sustained collaboration with the School of Medicine, and other health professions, around an inter-professional team training event semi-annually; educating over 800

students and 80 faculty. In addition, she served as the Senior Nurse Quality Scholar for the VA's Quality Scholar Fellowship in the Atlanta VA. Her research focuses on quality and safety in healthcare, specifically the science of teamwork as a system of work design, used to mitigate error and promote performance by way of enhancing communication and coordination of healthcare professionals.

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First Year Fellows

Bilal Ahmad, MD



Dr. Bilal Ahmad is interested in the intersection between people and technology and how to effectively integrate technology into daily workflows. Overall, he would like to use IT tools at the point of care within the context of appropriately designed systems to improve quality of care. Specifically, he will start by standardizing certain workflows within a dermatology department to allow for automated tracking of quality measures to help direct further efforts at improvement.

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Key Words: Clinical Decision Support Systems, Cognitive Engineering, Healthcare Quality

Allison Arensman, MD

Dr. Arensman graduated from Princeton University with a degree in Bioethics. After graduation she spent a year in Romania as a Fulbright Scholar. She obtained her Doctorate of Medicine at



Dartmouth Medical School and a MBA at the Tuck School of Business. She completed her residency training in Orthopaedic Surgery at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. Her recent research has focused on outcomes of hip fracture patients and process improvement. Her research interests include hospital operations and healthcare delivery, impact of surgical times and hospital stay on outcomes and the role of shared decision making in improving quality of surgical care.

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Key Words: Orthopaedics, Healthcare Delivery and Operations, Shared Decision Making

Linda Nwoga, PhD



Dr. Nwoga's research interests include the application of a shared decision making approach in mental health care, examining factors that contribute to health disparities, and efforts to promote health literacy and wellness with ethnic minorities.

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Second Year Fellows

Neha Pathak, MD

Neha Pathak is a physician and first year VAQS Fellow in Atlanta, GA.



She is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory University SOM, in the Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics. Dr. Pathak received her MD from Cornell University's Weill Medical College. After completing her Internal Medicine residency at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian

Hospital, she joined the Providence VA Medical Center as a staff physician and developed and co-directed the PACT ambulatory care clinic rotation. At the Atlanta VA Medical Center (AVAMC), she functions as the site PI for a 5 site VA QI demonstration project aimed at optimizing care management for veterans with complex healthcare needs in order to improve outcomes and patients' experience of care. She also functions as the MD lead on a committee working to decrease ambulatory care sensitive condition hospitalizations for the AVAMC facility.

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Key Words: Complex care management, care coordination, inter-professional/team-based care

Paula Tucker, DNP, FNP-BC, NP-C

Paula Rene' Wise Tucker is a doctoral prepared Board Certified



Family Nurse Practitioner with an educational specialty in the area of Emergency Medicine. Paula began her career as a Hemodialysis Nurse and decided to further her education by completing her Master's of Science Degree in Nursing at Emory University and Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree at Vanderbilt University. As Nurse Practitioner,

Paula began her career working in the area of Nephrology. As a recent Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduate of Vanderbilt University, Paula's educational experience consisted of implementing a quality improvement initiative/feasibility study involving emergency department community-dwelling older adults. Specific quality aims consisted of demonstrating organizational and systems leadership skills by designing and implementing a quality improvement project. This project focused on implementing gait speed screening among community-dwelling older adults and providing individualized outpatient care coordinator intervention for patients with suboptimal gait speeds. Paula currently works as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in the Emergency Department at Emory University Hospital and has decided to pursue extended training in the area of quality improvement so that she may be equipped to ultimately become an effective change agent and nurse scholar while having the opportunity to be apart of team that focuses on improving the care of Veterans. Most importantly, Paula values organizational environments that promote interprofessional collaboration for improving patient health outcomes.

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Key Words: Geriatrics; Functional Assessment; Transitions of Care

Birmingham

Senior Faculty Scholars

Patricia A. Patrician, PhD, RN, FAAN



Dr. Patricia A. Patrician is the Donna Brown Banton Endowed Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She joined the faculty in August 2008, after retiring from a 26-year career with the US Army Nurse Corps. She teaches in the PhD program, mentors pre- and post-doctoral students and fellows and conducts research on nurse staffing, work environment, and quality and safety patient and nurse outcomes. She is currently a co-investigator on a program evaluation of the US Army's Patient CaringTouch System, an innovative nursing practice model. She is a Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) consultant.

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Key Words: Nurse staffing, nursing work environment, adverse patient events

Carlos Estrada, MD, MS



Research interests include clinical reasoning, medical education, faculty development, decision analysis, clinical prediction rules, outcomes research, and cultural competence. With over 85 publications in peer-reviewed journals, he has designed, conduct, analyze, and publish studies using the spectrum of research design (case reports, case-series, cross-sectional, cohort, clustered randomized trials, decision analysis, clinical reasoning). Co-editor of JC book with VAQS Senior

Scholars. Splaine, M. E., Dolansky, M. A., Patrician, P. A., Estrada, C. A. Editors. Oakbrook: Joint Commission Resources. Practice-based Learning and Improvement: A Clinical Improvement Action Guide, 3rd Edition. 2012.

Contact: cestrada@uab.edu

Key Words: Decision analysis, diagnostic reasoning, clinical prediction rules, diabetes outcomes research

Faculty Scholars

Suzie Miltner, RNC-OB, PhD, NEA-BC



I am an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at UAB. I primarily teach in the Nursing Administration, Clinical Nurse Leader, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. I have extensive clinical and leadership experience in military, private, and VA acute care settings as well as experience in nursing education in both academic and organizational settings. I learned about quality improvement in 1992, and it changed my professional life! I have led many quality improvement efforts in several health care organizations including ongoing work as an improvement scientist in the VA around the quality of nursing care in acute care settings. I am also an experienced teacher of leadership and quality improvement content in both formal academic courses and in continuing education venues. I love working with students and fellows, and I want to do what I can to help them be successful "improvers" of care.

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Key Words: Quality measurement, practice variation in acute nursing care, improvement science

First Year Fellows

Elise Aucoin, PharmD



Dr. Aucoin is a first year pharmacist fellow in the VA Quality Scholars Program. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences in 2012 from Louisiana State University and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2016 from Auburn University. Her main area of research is the impact of pharmacist involvement in patient care and the medication use process. Particular areas of interest include chronic disease state management and substance abuse disorders.

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Key Words: Adherence, Pharmacogenomics, Addiction

Roozbeh Sharif, MD



Dr. Sharif's Research interests include: Health service research, cost analysis, healthcare resource allocation, and quality of care, medical economics and quality of life outcomes, natural course of chronic lung disease, and palliative care in patients with advanced lung disease. His clinical interests are medically intensive care, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and interstitial lung disease in autoimmune disease and lung cancer.

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Debra Litton, RN, DNP



Dr. Litton's journey in nursing has prepared her well to meet the constant change in healthcare delivery and the demands that it places on the nursing career. She recognizes the need to be innovative in health care delivery and I hope to work on projects focused on Veteran's access to care. She is particularly interested in studying the dimensions of the SHEP customer satisfaction questionnaires, Press Ganey questionnaires, and the real time Kiosk questionnaire that are focused on Access to Care.

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Cleveland

Senior Faculty Scholars

Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN



Dr. Dolansky is an Associate Professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University and Director of the QSEN Institute (Quality and Safety Education for Nurses). She has co-published two books on quality improvement education, co-authored several book chapters and articles and was guest editor on a special quality improvement education Issue in the Journal of Quality Management in Health Care. She has taught the interdisciplinary course on quality improvement at

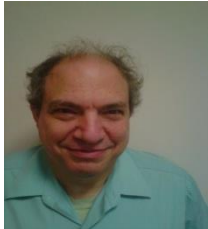
CWRU for the past 10 years. She serves on the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Teaching for Quality National Committee to integrate quality improvement in medical education. She is faculty and developer of the massive open online course "Take the Lead on Quality Improvement in Healthcare."

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Key Words: Systems Thinking, Implementation, Interprofessional Education

David Aron, MD, MS

A former laboratory bench researcher and clinic/department administrator, my current research interests are eclectic and include: health services and implementation research related to quality measurement and improvement, especially diabetes-related and applications of complexity theory. However, as has often been the case in the past, exactly what I will be working on, even in the not too distant future, cannot be predicted with any certainty.



Please see: Aron DC. Systems Thinking, Complexity Theory and Management--talk given at Alumni Day, Doctorate in Management Program, Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University. www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqWJPSpWGyG

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Key Words: Complexity Systems Management

Faculty Scholars

Susan Phillips, DNP, MPH, PMHCNS

Dr. Phillips is a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist with 15 years employment with the VA. She is a former VA Quality Scholar. Her past quality improvement interests have been in the area of infectious disease, specifically HIV and pneumococcal pneumonia. Dr. Phillips teaches Continuous Quality Improvement, An Interdisciplinary Course at the Case Western Reserve University School of Public Health.

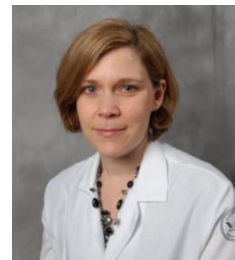


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Key Words: Psychiatry, Public Health, Quality Improvement

Brook Watts, M.D., M.S.

Dr. Watts completed her M.D. from The University of Alabama in 2000, her Internal Medicine residency and chief residency at The University of Michigan in 2004, and a master's degree in Health Policy from Case Western Reserve University in 2006. She was a fellow in the Veterans Administration Quality Scholars program from 2004-2006. She is core teaching faculty for the Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals internal medicine residency teaching program and Associate Director for the VA Quality Scholars Fellowship Program, Cleveland site. She also is co-director of the Evaluation Core for the Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education based at the Cleveland VAMC. Since 2012, Dr. Watts has served as facility Chief Quality Officer for the Cleveland VAMC. In this capacity, she facilitates a diverse portfolio



of inpatient and outpatient quality programs. In 2013, Dr. Watts was awarded a 4-year grant from the VA Office of Primary Care Services to develop and implement a program to address the needs of veterans with complex medical and psychosocial needs. This intensive-management program leverages former military medics as “patient navigators”, and uses a combination of telehealth, open access to providers, and home visits to improve patient outcomes.

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Key Words: Population health management, health information technology, new models of care delivery

First Year Fellows

Jason Tuckerman, MD



Dr. Tuckerman’s interests include clinical process improvement, clinical research, public health, and telehealth / telemedicine. I am hoping to pursue projects in the areas of electronic health record usability and improving access to care through the use of telemedicine.

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Michelle Slater, DNP, RN, CNOR



Dr. Slater’s clinical work is focused on perioperative and medical/surgical nursing, education, and leadership. Her doctoral educational work focus’s on clinical nurse leadership, patient safety and clinical outcomes.

Her research interests include: quality, patient safety and outcomes, healthcare delivery systems and complexity science, healthcare disparities, health policy, leadership, stress management and quality of life

Contact: Michelle.Slater@va.gov

Key Words: Quality and Patient Safety, Healthcare Delivery Systems, Healthcare Disparities

Sandy Chang, MD, MHS

Dr. Chang’s long-term goal is to establish and lead a geriatrics



service line across the care continuum which is dedicated to optimizing the health outcomes and functional mobility of complex older adults with multiple chronic conditions, or multimorbidity, through the development and implementation of clinical innovations and quality improvement in health care delivery. In particular, she has an interest in optimizing the use of medical informatics and enhancing the integration of healthcare technology into daily processes of care, such as creating a user friendly, easily accessible advance care planning template into CPRS. She envisions such clinical innovations and practices to provide opportunities to bridge connections between clinical care with patient-centered outcomes research and medical education. Based upon findings from outcome studies using real-time clinical data, she anticipates disseminating high value, big impact practice changes from these clinical innovations and practices into other U.S. health systems.

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Second Year Fellows

Aniko Kukla, MD



I am a first year VAQS. My quality interests are in mentoring and empowering bedside caregivers in QI, and in measuring outcomes related to the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses competencies. My previous areas of research include the correlation of credentialing (certifications) with quality outcomes. I have led Nursing Quality and Safety in a community hospital and worked with bedside caregivers on quality improvement projects.

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Key Words: QSEN outcomes, empowering and mentoring, credentialing research

Shanina Knighton, MD



Shanina Knighton is a PhD Candidate simultaneously a National VA Quality Scholars Doctoral Fellow, Legacy Fellowship recipient and Jonas Veteran Healthcare Scholar. Her quality improvement work and research is focused on patient hand hygiene and infection prevention. As a clinical bed-side nurse working on a surgical care unit for the past several years, she repeatedly observed patients' deficient hand hygiene practices. She coaches medical and nurse practitioner residents in primary care on various quality improvement projects. She works on inter-professional research studies and since 2013 has worked as a graduate research assistant including projects for multiple NIH-funded grants. She is the co-author of the Patients' Four Moments for Hand Hygiene Model proposed in a 2015 study and was a co-author for the Association

for Professionals in Infection Control's first hand hygiene programs implementation guide. She is an entrepreneur, inventor, national speaker, and visionary always looking for ways to improve health through quality and human-centered design.

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Key words: patient hand hygiene

Julie Schexnayder, DNP, MPH, ACNP-BC, AACRN

Interests: I am a nurse practitioner specializing in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and associated infectious comorbidities. My research interests focus on describing health services utilization and outcomes in HIV and hepatitis C infected populations, particularly as related to changes in health care policy and/or care delivery. Because my academic path has been more clinically oriented, I sought out the VAQS fellowship for the opportunity to develop research and publication skills under the mentorship of faculty at the VA and UAB.



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Key Words: HIV/AIDS, HCV, infectious diseases

Iowa City

Senior Faculty Scholars

Jill Scott-Cawiezell, RN, PhD, FAAN

Dr. Scott-Cawiezell has worked in the field of patient safety with particular emphasis on how organizations build capacity to create

and sustain improvement. She has worked with the nurse fellows since the addition of nurses to the VAQs program.

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Key Words: Organizational capacity, patient safety, high reliability

Hillary Mosher, MFA, MD

Dr. Mosher is a general internist with a hospital-based practice at the Iowa City Veterans Administration. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. An alumna of the VA Quality Scholars Program, Dr. Mosher has led or is leading quality improvement initiatives in interdisciplinary care rounding, documentation, and inpatient care of pain in medical inpatients, especially those with chronic pain conditions. She is also a member of the Iowa City VAMC committee leading local implementation of the Opioid Safety Initiative (OSI); and collaborates in health services research with focus on national trends in opioid prescribing patterns across VHA.



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Emeritus Scholars

Peter Kaboli, MD, MS



Dr. Kaboli is a Hospitalist and Chief of Medicine at the Iowa City VA Healthcare System and Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. He earned his BS in Biology, MS in Epidemiology, and his MD, all from the University of Iowa. He completed his

residency at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT in 1998 and General Medicine Fellowship and VA Quality Scholars Fellowship at the University of Iowa/Iowa City VAMC in 2000. Dr. Kaboli's research interests include healthcare access, rural health, inpatient medical care quality, development of valid methods for measuring medication appropriateness, and interventions to optimize medication delivery to vulnerable Veteran populations.

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Key Words: Health Services Research, Pharmacy based interventions, Hospital Medicine

First Year Fellows

Brooke Hofmeyer, PharmD

Dr. Hofmeyer begins her first year of the VAQS Fellowship following completion of a PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Pharmacy Residency at UW Health in Madison, Wisconsin. Brooke's research interests include health services research pertaining to Veterans' access to solid organ transplant and medication use before and after solid organ transplant, interdisciplinary care of the ambulatory transplant patient, and quality improvement. Brooke's five-year plan includes serving the end-stage organ disease and solid organ transplant populations through inter-professional pharmaceutical care, providing quality improvement leadership to a Transplant Center and/or Organ Procurement Organization, and training pharmacy residents and inter-disciplinary learners in research and quality improvement methods.



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Key Words: pharmacoepidemiology, transplant, and access

Aref Bin Abdulhak, MD

Dr. Abdulhak's area of interest in clinical research spans from patient oriented outcome research to estimating global burden of disease. His prior work focused on investigating the rule of statin and the new oral anticoagulants in various disease states. His future work will try to implement a strategy to increase the adherence to high intensity statin therapy in veterans population with acute coronary disease.



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Stephanie Edmonds, RN, PhD

My research interests include family planning and preconception health with a specific focus on patient-centered health care and shared decision-making. My dissertation topic is examining how health care providers discuss reproductive life planning with their patients as a way to improve birth outcomes and prevent unplanned pregnancies. During this fellowship, I plan to expand my research interest to gain a better understanding about the needs of VA women and their families in planning for children.



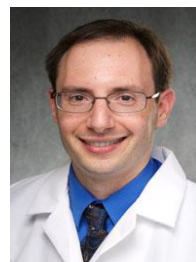
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Keywords: patient-centered care, family planning, preconception health

Second Year Fellows

Ethan Kuperman, MD

Ethan Kuperman is happy to join the VA Quality Scholars program as an academic hospitalist faculty member affiliated with the Iowa City VA and the University of Iowa. His research interests include quality of care, transitions of care, and interdisciplinary teams. During his time in the program, Dr. Kuperman plans to improve the discharge process from the general medical service, focusing on the transition to community skilled nursing facilities.



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Key Words: Transition. Interdisciplinary. Handoff.

Los Angeles

Senior Faculty Scholars

Shelly de Peralta, DNP, ACNP-BC

Dr. Peralta is the Nurse Senior Scholar for the Veterans Quality Scholars program at Greater Los Angeles.

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Lisa Rubenstein, MD, MSPH, FACP

Lisa Rubenstein is the Director of the VA Quality Scholars Program at Greater Los Angeles, Director of the VA QUERI Center for Implementation Practice & Research Support, Professor of Medicine and Public Health at VA Greater Los Angeles and UCLA, and a Senior Natural Scientist at RAND. She founded and directed, between 1994 and 2012, the VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Provider Behavior (now Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy), and remains its Associate Director and primary care core focused area lead. She is an internationally recognized expert in development and application of evidence-based quality improvement approaches to implementing and spreading new care models, especially in primary care and primary care-mental health integration.



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Faculty Scholars

David Ganz, MD, PhD

I am an internist, geriatrician and health services researcher with expertise in quality improvement and implementation science. My research activities currently revolve around 1) improving care coordination for high-risk Veterans and 2) evaluating the implementation and outcomes of fall prevention programs. I am involved in quality improvement through membership on my local facility's fall prevention committee.



Contact: dganz@mednet.ucla.edu

Key Words: Fall prevention, care coordination, geriatrics

First Year Fellows

Maryanne Chumpia, MD

Dr. Chumpia is an internist/pediatrician from Memphis, TN. After graduating from medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, she remained to complete her residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics and spent an additional year serving as a chief resident in Pediatrics. During that time, she and her co-chief residents became closely involved with hospital administration and clinical leadership for numerous safety projects, including standardizing physician notification of patient admissions and identifying medical ward patients for early intervention to decrease "UNSAFE" transfers to higher levels of care. She is interested in efficient and effective discharge planning, and to that end, she worked on several projects that focused on implementation of daily multidisciplinary discharge rounds led by the medical team and resident education of the roles and work flows of the various providers (ie, case managers, social workers, and pharmacists) at those rounds. As a VA Quality Scholar, she plans to continue her work identifying and implementing best practices in discharge planning. In the long term, she hopes to return to Memphis to practice clinically as an adult/pediatric hospitalist while also serving as a quality improvement expert for the betterment of the healthcare system in her hometown.



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Key Words: Transitions of care, high value care, hospital medicine

Lucinda Leung, MD

Dr. Lucinda Leung is general internal medicine physician and health services researcher with the VA Quality Scholars Program and UCLA Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Fellowship. She is pursuing a PhD in Health Policy & Management at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Dr. Leung earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Chinese Language and Literature at Dartmouth College. She received her medical



training at Brown Medical School and Dartmouth Medical School. She also obtained a Masters of Public Health Degree in family and community health at Harvard School of Public Health. During her medical training, she was a researcher for Partners in Health, collaborating on a psychosocial intervention for HIV-affected families in central Haiti. Dr. Leung completed a residency in internal medicine – primary care at UCLA and continued on as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation VA Clinical Scholar. Her fellowship work centers on the integration of mental health services in primary care settings at the VA and Los Angeles County safety net. In an effort to improve care for those with mental and physical comorbidities, she evaluates the impact of integrative services on healthcare utilization, medical spending, and clinical outcomes. Through the VAQS fellowship, she aims to translate her research into practice and to improve delivery of Primary Care - Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) within the VA. After fellowship, she plans to pursue a career in academic general internal medicine with a focus on primary care-related health services research, particularly ambulatory practice redesign, integration of mental health and primary care, and implementation science.

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Key words: primary care, mental health, implementation science

Second Year Fellows

Bryan Doyle, MD

Brian Doyle is a hospitalist and doctoral candidate in health policy and management at the UCLA School of Public Health. He obtained his medical degree from the Temple University School of Medicine and completed a residency in primary care and general medicine at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. He plans on using the VA Quality Scholars Fellowship to finish his doctoral research and improve his clinically based quality improvement and management skills. His research and interests concentrate on improving the clinical quality and financial transparency of hospital based care. He is currently finishing a project examining the effect of Medicare's hospital observation policies on beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs, in addition to beginning a quality improvement project employing a computerized ordering system to automate post hospitalization outpatient care.



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Key Words: hospitals, efficiency, transparency

Linda Kim, PhD, MSN, RN, PHN

Linda Kim is a second-year, VA Quality Scholar Fellow affiliated with the VA Great Los Angeles site and is concurrently a Post-doctoral Fellow for the AHRQ Los Angeles Area Health Services Research Training Program. She is working to extend her research on the effects of organizational, unit, and provider level factors on patient safety outcomes. She recently completed her dissertation research study on “The Effects of



Simulation-based Interdisciplinary Communication and Teamwork Training on Provider and Patient Outcomes,” through UCLA School of Nursing, where she received her PhD degree in Nursing. She is currently working with Dr. Lynn Soban at the VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation and Policy, investigating the nurse manager’s role in implementation of quality improvement initiatives on the nursing unit (e.g. pressure ulcer prevention programs).

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Key Words: Patient Safety, Quality, Interprofessional

Katherine Mitchell, MD, RN

My research interests involve the practical application of knowledge



to identify and address deficits in patient care and provider training across the spectrum of inpatient and ambulatory care. My goal is to implement changes that will improve specific health care issues and correct system issues contributing to health care errors. I am currently developing a program to teach clinicians and Post-9/11 veterans about academic reasonable accommodations for mental health conditions. The program goal is to reduce mental health stressors by assisting eligible veterans with successful integration into the student-veteran role through use of academic accommodations.

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Key Words: Post-Deployment, Triage, Education

Nashville

Senior Faculty Scholars

Robert Dittus, MD, MPH

Robert Dittus is the Albert and Bernard Werthan Professor of Medicine, Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Health and Health Care, Senior Associate Dean for Population Health Sciences, and Director of the Institute for Medicine and Public Health at Vanderbilt University and Director of the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) and Director of the Quality Scholars Program at



the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. He has combined training in industrial engineering, medicine and epidemiology to advance health care quality improvement, outcomes of care and overall individual and population health through his research in ambulatory, surgical and critical care. He has secured over \$300 million in research and training funding and authored over 200 publications. He has trained over 100 fellows and junior faculty, served as the President of the Association for Clinical Research Training and received the Distinguished Educator Award from the Association for Clinical and Translational Science and the Innovation with Distinction Award in Research Training and Education from the AAMC. He was the founding President of the Academy for Healthcare Improvement and is an elected member of the Association of American Physicians.

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Catherine Ivory, PhD

Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Previously involved in IHI quality/process improvement projects in a multi hospital system and currently involved in the Tennessee Center for Perinatal Quality Collaborative (TIPQC). My research interests focus on data standardization in electronic health records.



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Key Words: Standard data, Informatics, Health Services Research

Faculty Scholars

Carol Callaway-Lane, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC, DNP

As a DNP prepared advanced practice nurse, Carol enjoys the interprofessional collaboration of her faculty position with the VAQS program. She excels at teaching and coaching quality improvement on many fronts; both in the VAQS program and as education director of the Geriatric Scholars Program Quality Improvement Workshop and Practicum. She also teaches quality improvement and patient safety in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Clinically, Carol developed the Lung Nodule Management Clinic at TVHS and continues to be a leader in the Lung Cancer Screening efforts within the facility. She is the director of the outpatient Pulmonary clinic, working collaboratively with the Pulmonary department chief and the Chief of Medicine to improve outcomes of care for Veterans with signs of lung cancer



Contact: Carol.callawaylane@va.gov or
carol.callawaylane@vanderbilt.edu

Key Words: Quality Improvement education and coaching

Lorraine Mion, PhD, RN

My main area of focus has been acute care geriatrics and avoidance of hospital complications and functional decline. My experiences in research and quality improvement have focused on: fall prevention, physical restraint reduction, pressure ulcer prevention, and delirium assessment, prevention and management.



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Key Words: Falls, Delirium, Physical Restraint

Russell Rothman, MD, MPP

Dr. Rothman is a Professor of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Health Policy at Vanderbilt, and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Population Health Research. He also serves as the Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research and Chief of the Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Section. Dr. Rothman's current research focuses on improving care for adult and pediatric patients with diabetes, obesity and other chronic diseases. He has been funded by the NIH, American Diabetes Association, and other sources to examine the role of literacy and numeracy in patients with diabetes and obesity. He is also the Principal Investigator of the PCORI funded Mid-South Clinical Data Research



Network which engages over 50 hospitals and 1,000's of ambulatory practices reaching patients across the nation.

Contact: Russell.rothman@vanderbilt.edu

Key Words: Health Communication, Chronic Disease Management, Population Health

Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH

Dr. Roumie has developed research programs related to comparative effectiveness research designed to improve health outcomes by developing evidence-based information for patients, clinicians, and decision-makers about the most effective interventions for patients. A major focus of Dr. Roumie's work has been in the development and implementation of a research portfolio that evaluates appropriate medication utilization as a barrier to optimal patient outcomes and as risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Dr. Roumie has been a leader in the field of medication prescribing and cardiovascular epidemiology and improvement. She has participated in multiple expert committees on appropriate medication prescribing, including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Diabetes Multi-Center Research Consortium Executive Committee and the Veterans Health Administration Geriatrics Pharmacy taskforce on appropriate prescribing, and serves as a member of the Council of Quality and Outcomes Research for the American Heart Association. She is a standing member of the Food and Drug Administration's Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee (NDAC) and was recently nominated as the chairwoman.



Contact: Christianne.roumie@vanderbilt.edu

Key Words: Clinical Epidemiology, Cardiovascular disease, Comparative effectiveness

Ted Speroff, PhD



Contact: ted.speroff@vanderbilt.edu

First Year Fellows

Rachel Apple, MD

Dr. Apple is a Nashville native who grew up just a few miles from the Vanderbilt campus. She ventured to the northeast for college, where she majored in the History of Science and also met her husband, Rick, who hails from Baltimore, MD. Following graduation, she followed Rick to the Big Apple, where she taught second grade at an all-girls charter school in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. She returned to Nashville for medical school and residency at Vanderbilt. Following residency, Rachel is excited to pursue the VAQS fellowship and engage in shaping systems of care through quality improvement, clinical research, and education. Rachel's research interests include primary care, sports medicine, and medical education.



Contact: rachel.apple@vanderbilt.edu

Shawna Bellew, MD

Dr. Bellew desires doctors and patients to have more information when they are making clinical decisions. I hope to achieve this by exploring the use of multimedia to enhance patient education and shared decision making in the emergency department as well as other settings. I am also interested in diagnostic reasoning, testing performance, accelerated diagnostic pathways, medical informatics, emergency department observation unit use, risk tolerance and practice variation in the emergency department, and medical education.



Contact: sdbellew@gmail.com

Three words: patient education, decision making, technology

Justin Liberman, MD

Dr. Liberman is an Instructor in the Department of Anesthesiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. After completing medical school at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, he completed residency training in Anesthesiology at Virginia Mason Medical Center. During his time at Virginia Mason he became interested in the Virginia Mason Production system which started his interest in patient safety and quality improvement. Currently, Dr. Liberman is a VA Quality Scholar Fellow and completing his Master's of Public Health in Epidemiology. His personal interests include interprovider communication as well as perioperative outcome based research.



Contact: Justin.s.liberman@vanderbilt.edu

Key Words: Perioperative outcomes, Patient safety, Population based outcomes

Raymond Romano, DNP

Raymond Romano is a doctoral student Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. His focus is in health services research, and his specific interests are in the detection, diagnosis, and care of dementia in the primary care setting. His interest in dementia began during his undergraduate career, when he studied the role a protein, Cyclin-Dependent Kinase 5, in insulin related neurodegenerative diseases. He explored the molecular pathway hyperinsulinemia has on the aberrant behavior of CDK5 contributing to the pathology of Alzheimer's disease. After his undergraduate education he received a Master in Public Health from Boston University and began working in clinical research at the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center. He moved to Nashville to join the Vanderbilt Memory and Alzheimer's Center. He completed the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program as a pre-specialty student in 2015, and is currently working as a FNP in primary care practice with the Metro Nashville Public School system and at the Gaylord Opryland Clinic. Particular studies he has worked on have focused on vascular health and Alzheimer's disease pathology, subjective memory complaints, and barriers of minority groups to participation in research.



Keywords: Primary Care, Dementia, Nursing

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Second Year Fellows

Caroline Presley, MD

Caroline is originally from Houston, TX. She received a degree in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University and went on to complete medical school at Baylor College of Medicine. She recently finished residency training in Internal Medicine-Pediatrics at Vanderbilt. Her professional interests include access to care and quality of primary care, especially in vulnerable populations.



Contact: caroline.a.presley@Vanderbilt.Edu

Amelia Maiga, MD

I am a general surgery resident at Vanderbilt Hospital with a background in public health. My research interests include lung cancer screening and outcomes, specifically the management of indeterminate lung nodules and shared medical decision-making.



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Key Words: lung cancer, surgery, shared decision-making

Leanne Boehm RN, PhD

My research interests include care collaboration and organizational factors that influence adherence to multidisciplinary protocols in the acute care setting. I am in the final phase of data



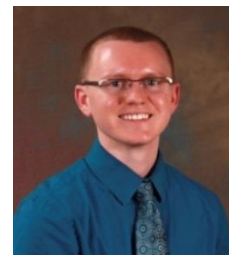
collection for my dissertation titled “ABCDE Bundle Efficacy and Factors Influencing Adherence.” Early in the fellowship, dissertation defense will be my primary focus. I will use the remainder of the fellowship to formulate, with VAQS mentors and scholars, directions for a program of research based on the results of my dissertation pilot study; write manuscripts; explore funding opportunities; prepare a grant; and hone quality improvement and investigator skills through projects at the TVHS.

Contact: Leanne.boehm@vanderbilt.edu

Key Words: multidisciplinary, collaboration, adherence

Third Year Fellows

Alvin Jeffery, MSB, RN-BC, CCRN, FNP-BC



My research interests broadly focus on the influence of technology on clinical decision-making, and my dissertation will likely narrow in on the development of a prediction model for patient deterioration that includes non-physiological parameters (like nurses’ and physicians’ intuition captured through documentation behaviors) in addition to physiological patient data. My quality improvement work with the VA has focused on the improvement of nurses’ working environments and their influence on patient outcomes as well as palliative care provision for critically ill Veterans.

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Key Words: decision-making, predictive analytics, clinical deterioration

JoEllen Wilson, MD

As a Psychosomatic Medicine Psychiatrist, Dr. Wilson's clinical and research interests include treating comorbid psychiatric and medical conditions. Her recent research efforts include studying the prevalence, severity and diagnostic structure of catatonia across multiple medical settings. Her current work includes a prospective cohort study, studying the prevalence and clinical relevance of catatonia in the critical care setting.



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Key Words: Diagnostic criteria, structure, clinical trial, delirium, catatonia

San Francisco

Senior Faculty Scholars

Sei Lee, MD, MAS



I am a geriatrician and palliative medicine doctor and I focus on 1) individualizing prevention in older adults, 2) diabetes care in frail older adults and 3) how quality indicators can help and unintentionally harm older adults.

Contact: Sei.lee@va.gov

Key Words: Geriatrics, prevention, time-to-benefit

Tim Carmody, PhD

I am involved in the interprofessional training of psychologists in primary care and other integrated care settings. My interests include the integration of psychology in interdisciplinary medical home teams, the processes and outcomes associated with team development, and relational aspects of patient-centered care. I have also been involved in conducting clinical trial research in behavioral approaches to pain management and smoking cessation.



Contact: Timothy.Carmody@va.gov or Timothy.Carmody@ucsf.edu

Key Words: Behavioral medicine, primary care mental health integration, pain management, smoking cessation

Margaret Wallhagen, PhD, GNP-BC, AGSF, FAAN

My research and practice focus on the psychosocial and physiological adaptations to aging in the context of family. Areas of interest include caregiving, diabetes, and, especially currently, the impact of hearing loss. My quality improvement work focuses on implementing systems in primary care to enhance the screening and follow-up of hearing loss in older adults because of its significant impact on communication, safety, and well-being. Additionally, it includes promoting a focus on hearing in palliative care settings to improve communication and minimize negative outcomes.



Contact: Meg.wallhagen@ucsf.edu

Key Words: Hearing loss; Person-Environment Fit; Family

Faculty Scholars

Jessica Eng, MD



I am a geriatrician by training, but my clinical and research interests focus on improving care for high utilizers and complex veterans within interprofessional teams. I also teach trainees in the setting of home-based interprofessional teams.

Contact: Jessica.eng@va.gov, jessica.eng@ucsf.edu

Key Words: Implementation science, geriatrics, complex care

Kirby Lee, PharmD, MAS

Contact: Kirby.Lee2@ucsf.edu

First Year Fellows

Lea Vella, PhD, MPH

My background includes research in cognitive impairment and health services outcomes in sheltered homeless populations, as well as in epidemiology, neuropsychology, functional impairment, and cognitive remediation in populations with serious mental illness. My current research interests include individual (e.g., socioeconomic, psychiatric, neurocognitive) and systemic (e.g., efficiency of referral systems, staffing shortages, wait time to treatment) barriers to mental health



treatment utilization. I am also interested in statistical modeling in quality improvement and health services research.

Contact: leavella@gmail.com

Key Words: Barriers to care; functional outcomes; statistical modeling

Nancy Dudley, BSN, PhD

Dr. Dudley conducts mixed-methods research that examines clinical, professional, and systems/implementation outcomes related to: 1) the role of palliative care upstream from hospice to deliver efficient and effective care across health care systems and settings for older adults with advanced illness and comorbidities 2) interprofessional health care training 3) program development and implementation in integrated health care settings 4) workforce policy and delivery of care



Contact: Nancy.Dudley@ucsf.edu

Key Words: Palliative care, health system delivery of care, and workforce policy

Daniel David, RN, MS

I conduct quantitative research investigating heart failure patient self-care behavior, cognitive impairment, and rehospitalization. My research interests include rehospitalization risk assessment, provider – patient communication, and transition care models. As a nurse scientist, I have worked with staff nurses to develop and evaluate quality improvement projects. Some of my recent QI projects investigate the use of cardiac acute care nurse practitioners to reduce rehospitalization, implementation of a nurse-led observation surgical unit, and using



nursing bedside reporting to improve patient satisfaction and quality of care.

Contact: Daniel.David@va.gov

Key Words: Care transitions, rehospitalization, patient self-care

Second Year Fellows

Laura Petrillo, MD



Laura is a palliative care physician who is interested in end of life decision making and communication. She is particularly interested in decisions about resuscitation, both from the provider and patient point of view, and how patient preferences are communicated across the healthcare system. Her work to date has been focused on increasing advance care planning completion and documentation in the medical record.

Contact: Laura.petrillo@ucsf.edu

Key Words: Decision-making, communication, palliative care

Heather M. Greysen, RN, MS, ANP-BC, PhD



I am an adult nurse practitioner, specialized in arthritis and work related musculoskeletal injuries /disorders. My program of research focuses on the use of mind body physical activities to assist in symptom management and functional improvement among older adults with chronic pain conditions, such as arthritis. I have initiated quality improvement projects in my previous roles as clinic manager and associate medical director.

Contact: Heather.Greysen@ucsf.edu

Key Words: arthritis, exercise, symptoms

Third Year Fellows

Joseph Grasso, PhD

I conduct mixed-methods research that examines clinical, professional, and systems/ implementation outcomes related to: 1) the role of behavioral health services in team-based health care 2) interprofessional health care training 3) brief behavioral interventions in integrated health care settings. I have helped to facilitate QI projects at our local VA medical center and have initiated my own project to improve participation of psychologists on primary care teams.



Contact: Joseph.Grasso3@va.gov

Key Words: Integrated health care; primary care/behavioral health; interprofessional training

White River Junction

Senior Faculty Scholars

Louise Davies, MD, MS, FACS



I come to healthcare improvement by way of health services research. My reason for doing this kind of work is to make things better for patients. I have experience in both epidemiology and mixed methods research (esp. qualitative methods). I am the co-PI on the grant to update the SQUIRE Guidelines,

publications guidelines whose aim is to support scholarly reporting of scientifically rigorous work aimed at improving the safety, value and quality of healthcare. My research interests include cancer epidemiology, particularly thyroid and head and neck cancers, and decision-making around those diseases.

Contact: Louise.davies@dartmouth.ed (preferred) & Louise.davies@va.gov

Key Words: Improvement science, qualitative research, surgery

Brant Oliver, PhD, MS, MPH, APRN-BC



Brant Oliver is an ANCC dual board-certified family and psychiatric nurse practitioner (FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC), certified multiple sclerosis specialist (MSCN), educator, and healthcare improvement scientist. He holds a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, MA, a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College in

Hanover, New Hampshire, and a PhD in Health Policy & Clinical Practice (with emphases in applied healthcare quality improvement, QI measurement, and clinical research) from the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice at Dartmouth College. Dr. Oliver has also completed a two-year doctoral fellowship in healthcare quality improvement and leadership in the Department of Veterans Affairs National Quality Scholars Program (VAQS) in 2012, and is a Lean Six Sigma certified quality improvement professional.

Contact: Boliver2@mgh.harvard.edu

Faculty Scholars

Philip Goodney, MD, MS

Dr. Goodney is a vascular surgeon whose research focuses on



studying and improving the patterns and outcomes of care provided to patients with peripheral vascular disease. With funding from the NHLBI, the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), and the Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society, he has worked to examine the utilization and effectiveness of newer

treatments for vascular disease, as well as disparities in the provision of vascular care. He is also a leader in regional and national quality improvement initiatives in vascular surgery, and directs the research advisory committees for the Vascular Study Group of New England as well as the SVS's Vascular Quality Initiative.

Contact: Philip.Goodney@va.gov

Key Words: Outcomes research, Quality improvement in surgery, Clinical trials in surgery

Greg Ogrin, MD, MS

Contact: Greg.Ogrinc@va.gov

Christine Rovinski, MSN, APRN

My work includes developing and sustaining coach/facilitators to advance VHA's Transformation Integration at the national, regional and facility levels, with a focus on improvement of Veteran access to healthcare through the application of Lean and Advanced Clinic Access principles in primary and specialty care. My research interests include relationship of coaching to achievement and sustainment of improvement work, and quality and safety in nursing education. I have 40 years of involvement in Quality Improvement as staff, manager, director, and educator in a wide variety of clinical and educational settings.



Contact: Christine.Rovinski@va.gov

Key Words: Coaching, Nursing, Quality

Brenda Sirovich, MD, MS

Dr. Sirovich is a practicing general internist whose research examines utilization of healthcare services - the tendency of clinicians to order tests, referrals, and treatments for patients. Her work has explored both causes and consequences of differing patterns of practice



and utilization of healthcare services. A former HSR&D Career Development Awardee herself, she currently mentors several VA Career Development Awardees and is a committed educator. She developed and directs an intermediate Epidemiology and Biostatistics course in the MS/MPH program at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice as well as a new interdisciplinary course at Geisel bridging population health and health care, fostering in preclinical students the capabilities to address problems across both realms. As faculty within the VA Quality Scholars Program, White River Junction, she has focused on nurturing synergies and mutual respect between Quality Improvement and Research among fellows and faculty alike.

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Key Words: Utilization, Patterns of practice and Education

First Year Fellows

Jesse Columbo, MD

I am an integrated vascular surgery resident at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. I am participating in the VA Quality Scholars Research Fellowship in White River Junction Vermont. During my training, I have developed a keen interest in clinical outcomes and quality improvement research. My current research interests include the management of carotid stenosis and quality of life in patients with critical limb ischemia. My specific focus over the next two years will be on quality improvement and gaining experience with the utilization of large datasets for examining clinical outcomes.



Contact: ColumboJ@Gmail.com

Key Words: Clinical outcomes, carotid stenosis, quality improvement

Hasna Hakim, RN, MSN, DNPc, CCRN

Dr. Hakim is the Nursing Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and a post doctorate fellow at VA Quality Scholars Fellowship Program. Dr. Hakim began her career in Lebanon as a clinical nurse in the MICU/SICU at Makkassed General Hospital in Beirut. She has over 30 years of nursing practice in medical intensive care practice environments and has served in both bedside and administrative roles. After moving to the United States she went on to serve in multiple roles as clinician and leadership at different Medical Centers in MA and RI where she was a clinical nurse in the MICU/SICU, Assistant Nurse Manager in the ICU, and then became Manager of Quality and Outcomes in the Department of Neuroscience. Dr. Hakim has interest to gain more understanding on implementation science in relation to quality and safety. She earned her MSN at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, CT. Her capstone work investigated quality improvement with medication reconciliation in intensive care units. Her work was published in the Nursing Management Journal, titled "Implementation of Lean Methodology Principles in the ICU: Improve Medication Reconciliation Accuracy, Patient Safety, and Reducing Waste and Cost". Dr. Hakim earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in May 2016. Her capstone work for her DNP was "Comparative Case Study to Evaluate Implementation Strategies for a Multi-Site Research Study".

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Key Words: Implementation, Science-quality safety, evidence base practice

Ravinder Kang, MD

I am a general surgery resident at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. I have completed 2 clinical years in training and am primarily interested in surgical oncology outcomes as well as quality assurance. More specifically I'm interested in breast and thyroid cancers. With regards to breast cancer, I'm interested to study how tissue handling in the operative room effects need for resection. Additionally, I'm interested in learning about implementing quality assurance measures. For example, guidelines exist for thyroid cancer and radioactive iodine use, however clinical practice patterns do not always mirror these recommendations.



Contact: kang.ravinder@gmail.com

Key Words: surgical oncology, breast cancer, outcomes

Holly Randall, DNP, PMHCNS-BC

Dr. Randall completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from MGH Institute of Health Professions in 2015. Her capstone consisted of a quality improvement evaluation of the introduction of a mental health screening tool within refugee resettlement sites across Massachusetts. Dr. Randall has worked as an adjunct faculty member teaching Masters and Bachelors level psychiatric nursing. As Associate Director of Behavioral Health Services and Integration at the Lynn Community Health Center she developed an integrated program where she worked with interdisciplinary teams to incorporate mental health treatment into the primary care setting. In addition, having worked at the Lynn Community Health Center with the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, her interest in working with underserved



populations and refugees with PTSD inspires her to apply her expertise in the treatment of PTSD within the veteran population. Dr. Randall is an experienced prescriber of psychiatric medications. Additionally, throughout her career she has included yoga, acupuncture and complementary medicines in her work. She is interested in investigating the inclusion of non traditional treatment options in the treatment of PTSD within the primary care setting.

Contact: HollyLRandall@gmail.com

Key Words: Integration, PTSD, Non traditional treatments

Second Year Fellows

Catherine Alexander, DNP

My doctoral work was focused on leadership- which happens to be a lifelong interest of mine. I specifically studied authentic leadership at MGH completing a qualitative study on essential behaviors of nurse executives comparing the identified behaviors of these executives with the four constructs of authentic leadership. I am hoping to replicate this study locally and nationally over the next two years. Most of my professional work has been in the acute care setting with my most recent work focused in education and quality Improvement. In 2010 I started a business called Mobile Medical Training. The goal of the business is to bring health and wellness programs to the communities where people live and work. I invite you to check out my website... mobilemedicaltraining.org and follow me on twitter as I report on a variety of health/wellness



issues for adults and internet and home alone safety tips for children.

Contact: mobilemedicaltraining@gmail.com

calexander@mghihp.edu

Key Words: Authentic leadership, teamwork , change theory

Connie Cowley, DNP

My research interest focuses on involving frontline nurses in QI. I am interested in identifying the factors that support or hinder this involvement. As a first step, I have created an educational program for frontline nurses in QI. My goal is to implement this in several settings. I will evaluate the results on learner capability, long-term subsequent involvement in QI, and the identification of other factors that impacted involvement.

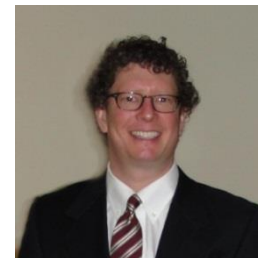


The focus on frontline nurses is important for two reasons: first, to enable them to engage in discipline specific improvements in their workplace, and second, to enable enhanced participation in inter-professional QI activities.

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Key Words: Frontline nurses, involvement in QI, educational interventions

Daniel Jones, MD



I have been in practice as a pathologist for about 5 years at small community hospitals in the Upper Valley of VT/NH. During that time, I have become involved in both hospital leadership and quality improvement. I want to be able to help

hospitals develop quality improvement programs with measures that are meaningful and actionable without undue burden on physicians so that patient outcomes and experience are improved. I believe that while hospitals, government, and industry can all have an impact on the quality of care delivered, it is individuals who ultimately make the difference and that systems can support -or impede- their efforts.

Contact: Daniel.Jones.MD@gmail.com

Key Words: Clinically meaningful, actionable

Third Year Fellows

Mimi Pomerleau, DNP, RNC-OB, WHNP-BC



Mimi Pomerleau is a third year VAQS Fellow. She comes to the VA with 30 years' experience in perinatal care. She is Assistant Professor at MGH Institute of Health Professions and maintains a clinical practice on the Newborn Family unit at MGH. Mimi was the 2013 President of the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses and is dedicated to its mission; promoting excellence in nursing practice to improve the health of women and newborns. She hopes to expand her knowledge of quality and safety research to impact reproductive health outcomes for Veterans and all women.

Contact: mimipomerleau@gmail.com

Key Words: maternity care coordination

Toronto

Senior Faculty Scholars

Chaim Bell, MD

Dr. Bell's research focuses on the quality of patient care in hospitals and their transition to the community. As well, he has many papers on ophthalmologic health services research. Chaim has also authored several publications examining the quality and methodology of cost-effectiveness analyses as well as how they should be incorporated into health policy decisions.



Contact: cbell@mtsinai.on.ca

Key Words: Quality of Care, Patient Safety, Care Continuity, Health Services Research

Lianne Jeffs, RN, PhD BScN, MSc, PhD

As the inaugural St. Michael's Hospital Volunteer Association Chair in Nursing Research (2013-18), Dr. Jeffs is focusing on gaining insight into what are the most effective interventions to improve care transitions and health care system performance. Foundational to her research program is the use of an integrated knowledge translation approach that involves key decision makers and knowledge users, including patients, family members and caregivers. In addition, she is supervising undergraduate, graduate



students and postdoctoral fellows and collaborating with other researchers, decision partners and knowledge users to complete additional research in this area. Through these collective partnerships, Dr. Jeffs is leading teams that provide evidence on how to improve care transitions and health care system performance that will be informative and helpful to patients and their caregivers, health care professionals and health care decision makers. She has published extensively, presented globally and has received several awards for leading research, education and administrative initiatives.

Contact: JeffsL@smh.ca

Key Words: Care Transitions; Systems Performance

Faculty Scholars

Rory McQuillan, MD



Rory McQuillan is a Staff Nephrologist at University Health Network and a Clinician in Quality and Innovation and Assistant Professor of Medicine at The University of Toronto. His academic interests utilize his training in medical education and quality improvement. He has studied the utility of simulation based mastery learning in improving the quality and safety of temporary hemodialysis catheters by nephrologists and trainees. He has established an urgent peritoneal dialysis access program at The University of Toronto, which has improved availability of home dialysis to patients. He maintains a commitment to teaching quality improvement methodology and has led workshops locally, nationally and internationally as well as contributing a primer on QI for the nephrology community.

Contact: Rory.McQuillan@uhn.ca

First Year Fellows

Gavin Chu, MD, CCFP



Gavin is currently completing his Academic Family and Hospital Medicine fellowship at the University of Toronto. He completed his medical school at the University of Alberta and his Family Medicine residency at the University of Toronto in 2016. As a family physician training to become a hospitalist, Gavin has an interest in improving the integration and patient transition from tertiary care to primary care. He hopes to improve continuity of care within our current healthcare networks and community.

Contact: gavincwchu@gmail.com

Key words: Primary care, hospitalist, continuity of care

Arash Nakhost, MD, PhD



Dr. Arash Nakhost is an attending psychiatrist with the community mental health program at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Canada. He is a clinician researcher and an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto. His research interests are health systems and service delivery to people with complex mental health and social needs in the community setting. In addition, Dr. Nakhost has an interest in issues related to community treatment orders and consent and capacity.

Contact: nakhosta@smh.ca

Nancy Watts, RN, MN, PNC

Dr. Watts is interested in exploring the use of simulation for interdisciplinary and nursing orientation education. Based on multigenerational workforce, it is important to provide education that meets multiple needs of the learners and fosters an interdisciplinary approach to emergencies such as codes, shoulder dystocia drills and assessment of the pregnant patient. She hopes to work on integration of more simulation into both the orientation process that are currently revamping and also the codes she is hoping to implement into her labour and delivery unit.

Contact: Nancy.Watts@sinaihealthsystem.ca

Key Words: simulation, patient safety, education

Second Year Fellows

Natasha Gakhal, MD

Contact: natasha.gakhal@mail.utoronto.ca

Christopher Hills, MD, MSc FRCPC

Chris Hillis is a research fellow in the Department of Oncology at McMaster University and a Lecturer in the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. His clinical work focuses on the care of patients with myeloproliferative neoplasms and myelodysplastic syndrome. Chris completed an MSc in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at the University of Toronto. He chairs the Cancer Symptom Management Working Group at the Juravinski Cancer Centre and will be using the skills gained through the VAQS program to improve the resources available for cancer patients experiencing distress.



Contact: hillis@hhsc.ca

Key words: cancer care; patient safety; admission avoidance

Eric Monteiro, MD

My research interests include the development and implementation of quality indicators for various surgical procedures within the field of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, such as thyroid and sinus surgery. I am also currently involved in the development of an interactive educational website for patients undergoing various surgical procedures in otolaryngology, which will be my main desired focus during the VAQS program.



Contact: eric.monteiro@mail.utoronto.ca

Key Words: quality indicators, patient experience, patient education

Rebecca Prince, MD

I have completed my Medical Oncology training in Brisbane, Australia and am currently undertaking a Clinical Fellowship at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto. My research interests are in the area of Health Services Research. My current research focuses on improving toxicity management for patients undergoing chemotherapy as this represents a significant gap in their care. I intend to continue this work during my VAQS Fellowship as well as implement other clinically based quality improvement initiatives.



Contact: Rebecca.Prince@uhn.ca

Key words: Health Services Research

Jennifer Robblee, MD

I have two potential projects which I am considering. The first is looking at code status discussions for neurology patients admitted to hospital. Often goals of care and code status are discussions that are uncomfortable for health care providers, and hence often not done despite representing an important step in directing a patient's care and aiming for patient-centered care. The second possible project connecting neurology to community family doctors via a nurse practitioner who would act as a intermediary to help with triaging neurology referrals and providing education to both patients & family doctors alike as part of a larger initiative that is already underway. The goal is to create a press to make the relationship between neurology and family medicine a more effective and efficient relationship in Toronto.

Contact: jennifer.robblee@mail.utoronto.ca

Key Words: Neurology, Efficiency, Patient-centered

Anupam Sehgal, MB,DNB,FCCM



I am Pediatric Cardiac Intensivist, presently in SickKids – Clinical Associate in Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care. I am keen on working on projects related to CRBSI,VAP.

Contact: ektanupam@gmail.com

Key Words: Pediatric Intensivist



Ekta Sehgal, MBBS, DMRD, DNB

Postdoctoral fellow, department of Medical Imaging, St. Michael's Hospital. Toronto.

Contact: ektasgl@gmail.com

Key Words: Diagnostic Imaging, Quality Improvement.

VAQS Coordinating Center

Houston Program Faculty

Aanand Naik, MD

Director, VA Quality Scholars

I am a medical geriatrician and clinical investigator with an interest in the outcomes of older adults with multiple morbid conditions. My research evaluates communication and decision making approaches that elicit patients' values and goals and align treatment plans to patient-driven goals. In addition, our team supervises a number of interprofessional education and research training programs focused on health care quality.



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Key Words: Multimorbid Older Adults, Patient Centered Care, Quality Scholars

Jane Anderson, PhD, APRN, FNP-C

Associate Director for Nurse Scholars

I recently accepted the position of Associate Chief of Nursing Research at the Michael E. DeBakey VAMC where I conduct research, mentor new nurse researchers and direct nursing evidence based practice and quality improvement activities. Previously, from 2005 until 2015, I served as the Associate Director of the MEDVAMC Stroke Center where I directed stroke quality improvement and outcomes research. My program of research is focused on implementation of effective health information systems and telemedicine to improve stroke care delivery and prevention. My past and current research has been funded by VA HSR&D, QUERI, VISN 16 research award, Office of Nursing Service research award, and the Texas Department of State Health Services. My academic appointments are: Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at Baylor College of Medicine and adjunct Assistant Professor at Texas Woman's University, College of Nursing.



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Key Words: Stroke, Health IT, Telemedicine

Kyler Godwin, PhD, MPH

Associate Director for Curriculum and Program Operations

My interest is in developing, delivering and evaluating behavioral and educational interventions. In my current role as Program Manager for the Center for Training in Healthcare Quality, I facilitate curriculum development and delivery as well as program and learner evaluation



for our post-doctoral fellowships, including VA Quality Scholars.

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Key Words: Health services research, behavioral science, public health

Sylvia Hysong, PhD

Associate Director for Program Evaluation

I am an industrial/organizational psychologist by training; my research interests revolve around performance measurement, systems of feedback to clinicians, and coordination. Most of my research focuses on clinicians, rather than patients, as the subjects of interest. I have been involved in and/or led several quality improvement projects as part of my research, including designing and implementing feedback interventions, and evaluating the effectiveness of multi-site quality improvement efforts.



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Key Words: Audit-and-feedback, Performance measurement, Employees

LeChauncy Woodard, MD, MPH

Associate Director for Physician Scholars

Dr. Woodard is an internist and clinician investigator at the Houston VA Center of Innovations and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). Her research expertise is in the design of facility and clinician performance measures and improving quality of care for patients with



multimorbidity through collaborative goal-setting and team-based care. Dr. Woodard is also an experienced clinician-educator serving as a senior advisor for BCM medical students and director of the recently funding Houston VA Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education.

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Key Words: Quality of care, chronic illness, interprofessional team-based care

Molly Horstman, MD, MS

Molly Horstman is an Instructor in the Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research at Baylor College of Medicine and an Investigator at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. She graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School and completed an internal medicine residency and chief residency at the University of Michigan. She came to Houston in 2013 as a Chief Resident in Quality and Safety at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. She completed a Post-Doctoral Health Services Research Fellow at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety and a MS in Clinical Investigation from Baylor College of Medicine in 2016. As a hospitalist, Dr. Horstman's research interests are in the evaluation of national hospital performance measures and developing interventions to improve patient and caregiver engagement in post-discharge care.

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Diana Stewart, MD, MBA

Dr. Stewart is a hospitalist with dual taining in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Texas Childrens' Hospital and the Michael E Debakey VAMC. Her scholarly activities focus on hospital based quality improvement, patient safety, and medical education. She is a site director for the Chief Resident for Quality and Safety program and leads the Quality Improvement Methods and Skills Course for the VA Quality Scholars Program.



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Key Words: Quality improvement, patient safety, medical education

Program Staff

Joshua Conwell

Project Coordinator for Education



My work involves communication, planning projects and helping deliver quality training for our fellowships. I enjoy helping to improve our student's educational experiences. My desire is to pursue counseling with students and individuals.

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Educational Leadership Fellows

Jennifer Bryan, PhD



My educational background is in social and health psychology with an emphasis in health education. My research has focused on stress management and behavioral change interventions as well as for whom they are most effective. During graduate school I fell in love with teaching; this led me to join VAQS as an educational fellow. I aim to get more healthcare exposure and experience with directing education programs.

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Key Words: Patient education, program evaluation, behavioral change

Megan Gregory, PhD



Dr. Gregory obtained her Ph.D. in industrial-organizational psychology from the University of Central Florida in 2015. Her interests include developing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs and interventions in healthcare. She has particular expertise in teamwork, training, and advanced statistical methods.

Contact: Megan.Gregory2@va.gov

Key Words: Teamwork, training, measurement and evaluation

Isabelle Kusters, PhD, MPH

Isabelle Kusters earned her graduate degrees at the UT School of



Public Health. Her research focuses on insurance coverage and access to care for immigrant populations, and she is also interested in the ways in which language services affect access to, and quality of, care for limited English proficient patients. As an Advanced Fellow in Educational Leadership, Isabelle designs, implements, and evaluates curriculum for interprofessional learners at various educational levels.

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Key Words: Health disparities, access to care, immigrants