

VA QUALITY SCHOLARS DIRECTORY OF FACULTY AND FELLOWS

*2017/2018
Academic Year*



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Atlanta

Senior Faculty Scholars

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



Dr. Clevenger, gerontological nurse practitioner, is the Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. She is a nationally recognized educational leader in advanced practice nursing and in geriatrics and gerontology. She is Immediate Past President of the Gerontological Advanced

Practice Nurses Association, Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and test content outline expert for AANP Certification Program. Her nurse-led patient centered medical home for people living with dementia, the Integrated Memory Care Clinic, represents an innovative clinical model that actively engages family caregivers to optimize well-being of people living with dementia through integrated palliative and primary care.

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.

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Key Words: Interprofessional education, Quality improvement, Collaborative practice models

Faculty Scholars

Corrine Abraham, RN, MN, DNP



Dr. Abraham is the Program Director for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program and Assistant Clinical Professor at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing (NHWSN) at Emory University where she has taught and served in numerous leadership roles since 1996. She earned a BSN from the

University of Iowa, a Masters in Nursing from Emory University and a DNP from the University of MN. She was selected as a Nurse-Fellow in the VA Quality Scholars Program in 2012 with the Atlanta VAMC where she developed expertise in quality improvement methods through participating in a community of learners, leading project teams, and mentoring inter-professional learners. Following completion of her post-doctorate, she negotiated a joint

appointment with the Atlanta VA Medical Center initiating a new position as Coordinator for EBP & Innovation. In 2015 Dr. Abraham received funding from the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations to establish the Cognitive Disorders Specialty Care Education Center of Excellence (SCE COE) at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Serving as co-director of the SCE COE has complemented her professional goals to transform inter-professional education, to build capacity in quality improvement methods, and to provide leadership in redesigning care delivery. Beginning in 2016 Dr. Abraham was invited to serve as key faculty for the Emory School of Medicine Accelerating Change in Medical Education grant to develop faculty competency in quality improvement and as co-investigator on a Joshua Macy grant “Preparing the Ground for Inter-professional Education” – all advancing her scholarship related to quality and safety education. Her goal is to bridge the gap between academia and practice promoting translation of evidence to enhance healthcare delivery and improve patient outcomes.

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Key Words: Inter-professional education, Quality improvement, On-line/blended educational methods

Krysta Johnson-Martinez, MD



Krysta Johnson-Martinez, MD is the Associate Chief Quality, Safety, Value at the AVAHCs and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory University SOM. Following completion of Internal Medicine Residency, she completed the VAQS Fellowship Program at the Atlanta VA Health Care System. In addition, she is the Physician Associate Program Director for the VAQS Fellowship Program at the AVAHCs and a mentor for the Chief Resident in Quality and Safety program. Her areas of interest include interprofessional education in quality and safety and the evaluation of educational programs in these areas.

Contact: krysta.johnson-martinez@emory.edu

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 posttraumatic stress disorder (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 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 and 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

Susan Swanson, DNP, RN



Dr. Swanson's focus is on optimizing patient safety, care delivery, and operations through system redesign and team-based performance improvement programs. Projects include increasing staff incident recognition and frequency of error reporting by implementing a comprehensive quality and safety program utilizing a dual intervention (i.e. crew resource management

training from commercial aviation with customized web-based reporting tools) adapted to a complex radiotherapy setting. Dr. Swanson looks forward to engaging with a team in the Pressure Injury Prevention (PIP) Breakthrough Series Project at the Atlanta VA.

Contact: susan.swanson@me.com

Key Words: System Redesign, Quality and Safety, Performance Improvement

Javier Valle, MD, MPH



Javier Valle completed his MD at Ponce Health Services University in Ponce, Puerto Rico and his MPH in Epidemiology at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Dr. Valle completed his internship in General Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA and a PGY-2 year in General Surgery at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ. He recently completed his residency in Preventive Medicine at Emory University

School of Medicine (2017) and is currently a VA Quality Scholars (VAQS) Fellow at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Dr. Valle's primary clinical/scholarly focus is on Lifestyle Medicine, chronic disease prevention, healthcare quality improvement, and innovation. As a VAQS Fellow, Dr. Valle aims to improve processes and implementation of innovative approaches both to prevent and to treat chronic disease in the Veteran population.

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Second 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.

Contact: bilal.ahmad@emory.edu

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.

Contact: arensman@me.com

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

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 also Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) consultant.

Contact: ppatrici@uab.edu

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

Carlos Estrada, MD, MS



Dr. Estrada's interests include interprofessional education and simulation, clinical reasoning, medical education, faculty development, leadership development, clinical prediction rules, and outcomes research. His findings have been published in over 90 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and he co-edited a Joint Commission book with two nurse leaders and a physician from the VAQS program. Dr. Estrada chaired the SGIM National meeting in 2009, served in Council as well as Deputy Editor and member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of General Internal Medicine, and is President-elect of the Association of Chiefs and Leaders in General Internal Medicine (ACLGIM). He has been a member of SGIM since 1991 and ACLGIM since 2001. He is a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners and the United States Medical Licensing Examination Gross Anatomy & Embryology Test Material Development Committee.

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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

Samantha Baker, MD



Dr. Samantha Baker is a General Surgery Resident participating in VA Outcomes Research. Under the mentorship of Drs. Melanie Morris and Carlos Estrada, Dr. Baker will be working with a group of investigators to determine possible risk factors and predictors

of 30 day readmissions after surgery. Dr. Baker will also be completing course work in a Masters in Education for Health Professionals with an interest in Surgical Education Research.

Contact: Sjbaker@uabmc.edu

Key Words: Outcomes, Readmission, Education

Second Year Fellows

Elise Dasinger, PharmD



Dr. Elise Dasinger is a clinical pharmacist and VA Quality Scholar at the Birmingham VA Medical Center. She obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Auburn University and is currently pursuing a Master of Health Administration Degree. Her work to date has been focused on the risks and impact of surgical readmissions, opioid use following surgery, and specialty medications. Dr. Dasinger serves as a quality improvement coach for various pharmacy directed process improvement projects at her local VA facility and surrounding VA community based outpatient clinics.

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Key Words: Quality Improvement, Pharmacy Operations, Healthcare Delivery Systems

Cleveland

Senior Faculty Scholars

Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN

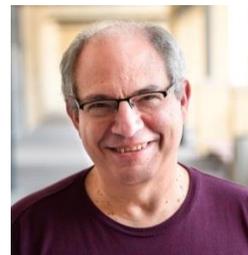


Dr. Dolansky is an Associate Professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, and Director of the QSEN Institute (Quality and Safety Education for Nurses). She has co-published two books on quality improvement education, co-authored several book chapters and articles 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



I am 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

Contact: David.aron@va.gov

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.

Contact: sep21@case.edu

Key Words: Psychiatry, Public Health, Quality Improvement

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



Dr. Watts is Chief Quality Officer and Acting Chief, Informatics and Analytics at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and Associate Professor, Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. She completed her M.D. from The

University of Alabama, her Internal Medicine residency and chief residency at The University of Michigan, advanced training in quality improvement through the VA Quality Scholars Fellowship, a master's degree in Health Policy from Case Western Reserve University, and an American Medical Informatics Association 10x10 certificate. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Clinical Informatics. Since 2009, Dr. Watts has led a variety of initiatives related to new models of care delivery, including development and implementation of informatics tools to support population health. Most recently, Dr. Watts received a 6-year, \$4 million dollar grant 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. In August, 2016, she was detailed to the national VA Office of Informatics and Analytics (10P2) as Senior Field Advisor for Clinical Informatics where she provides clinical leadership for VHA informatics initiatives.

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

First Year Fellows

Christine Hovart Davey, RN, BSN, BSPS



Christine Horvat Davey received her BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Nursing from The University of Toledo. As a Legacy Predoctoral Fellow at Case Western Reserve University she is currently pursuing her PhD in Nursing. Her clinical background is in critical care. Her principal interests include implementation

research and clinical outcomes related to quality and safety in individuals with end stage renal disease. She plans to focus on implementation of clinically based quality improvement measures for individuals in this patient population.

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Key Words: Implementation, Quality Improvement, End stage renal disease

Izabela Kazana, DNP, APN, AGPCNP-BC, CCRN



Dr. Kazana is a doctorally prepared adult-gerontology nurse practitioner licensed in Illinois and Ohio. She is passionate about providing high quality care to promote health, prevent diseases, manage chronic conditions, and plan goals of care. With extensive experience in adult acute care, especially in critical care and perioperative care as a registered nurse, Dr. Kazana pursued a doctoral nurse practitioner program to focus her work with the population of adult and geriatric patients in a primary care setting. Her interest in health care quality improvement and patient safety started at the beginning of her professional career in Poland where she participated in various quality improvement initiatives. As a doctoral student, she designed, implemented, and evaluated an evidence-based walking program for residents in Long Term Care. In addition, she is an active member of health affairs committees on a state and national level.

Contact izakazana@yahoo.com

Barbara J. Messinger-Rapport, M.D., Ph.D., FACP



Barbara Messinger-Rapport is a physician board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She has additional certifications as a CMD and an HMDC (medical director for nursing homes; medical director for hospice). She has clinical experience in acute, subacute, long-term, and community settings. She has held educational and management leadership positions as well as served on society committees. She has published more than 50 educational and research publications, as well as book chapters, and has given national presentations. Her goals during her fellowship include developing skills to help healthcare organizations use large databases to change culture, adapt processes, and improve quality of care for vulnerable adults, particularly in areas of transitions of care, successful aging, goals of care, advance directives, and polypharmacy.

Contact Barbara.messinger-rapport@va.gov

Key Words: Goals of care, systems of care, large databases

Erica Jill Stovsky, MD, MPH



Dr. Erica Stovsky is a board certified physician in Internal Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. After several years in clinical practice, she elected to return to residency for further training in Preventive Medicine and to pursue a Masters in Public Health, which she completed in the spring of 2017. Her primary interests include medical and interprofessional education with an

emphasis on systems science, including quality and safety. Her goal is to empower future healthcare professionals to make positive changes in the systems in which they function. To that end, she plans to focus her work on health systems sciences curriculum and evaluation of this curriculum for students. She will also continue to expand on work she has been involved with related to interprofessional teamwork and the foundational curriculum being used to teach interprofessional team readiness to health sciences students. She is looking forward to "coaching" resident teams at the Center Of Excellence on their clinical QI projects.

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Key Words: Health Systems Sciences, Interprofessional Teamwork, Education

Second Year Fellows

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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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

Jason Tuckerman, MD



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

Contact: Jason.Tuckerman@VA.gov

Third Year Fellows

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.

Contact: sck46@case.edu

Key Words: patient hand hygiene

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



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.

Contact: Jill-cawiezell@uiowa.edu

Key Words: Organizational capacity, patient safety, high reliability

Hillary Mosher, MD, MFA

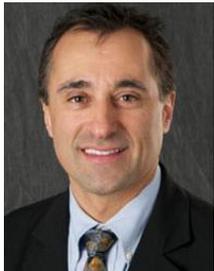


Dr. Mosher is a general internist with a hospital-based practice at the Iowa City Veterans Administration. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. An alumna of the VA Quality Scholars Program, Dr. Mosher has led and is leading quality 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.

Contact: hilary-mosher@uiowa.edu

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.

Contact: Peter.kaboli@va.gov

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

First Year Fellows

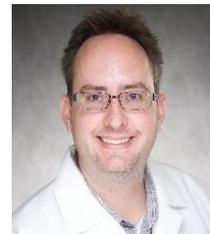
Jaime Brown, BSN, RN, PCCN



Jaime Brown earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Iowa College of Nursing in 2009. In May 2018, Jaime will complete her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Health Systems Administration at the University of Iowa College of Nursing. Her clinical experience and practice involves adult medical-surgical clinical instruction in undergraduate nursing education and working as a staff nurse in critical care. She is a Progressive Care Certified Nurse (PCCN) and the Leadership Succession Committee Chair of Sigma Theta Tau International Gamma Chapter. Jaime is interested in improving the healthcare system through nurse leadership, systems improvement, and inter-/intra-professional collaboration and education

Contact: jaime-brown@uiowa.edu

Harry Porterfield, DO



After Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency at LSU in New Orleans, I came to Iowa City for a fellowship in Medical Microbiology. My research interests include informatics, infection control and prevention, and the microbiology of cystic fibrosis. Specifically, I am interested in using

whole genome sequencing to better understand the epidemiology of Staphylococcus aureus between and among people with cystic fibrosis, the community and hospital environments.

Contact: harry-porterfield@uiowa.edu

Key Words: Microbiology, Cystic Fibrosis, Informatics

Melissa Swee, MD



I recently finished a transplant nephrology fellowship and am interested in measuring and improving outcomes in clinical and educational settings, especially regarding kidney disease. Topics I would like to explore further include early treatment and evaluation of acute kidney disease, decreasing adverse outcomes and length of stay in kidney transplant patients, and early detection of ANCA vasculitis.

Contact: Melissa-swee@uiowa.edu

Key Words: Transplant nephrology, acute kidney injury, ANCA vasculitis

Second Year Fellows

Stephanie Edmonds, PhD, MPH, RN



I am a second year fellow VAQS nursing fellow. During my first year I finished my PhD in Nursing and am working with the Iowa City VA Women's Clinic to help implement the new national infertility policy which provides benefits, like IVF, to service connected Veterans and their spouses. Additionally, I am working with the VA to improve preconception and maternity care. My research interests include family planning and preconception health with a

specific focus on patient-centered health care and shared decision-making. For my dissertation, I examined how health care providers discuss reproductive life planning with their patients as a way to improve birth outcomes and prevent unplanned pregnancies. During the remainder of 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

Los Angeles

Senior Faculty Scholars

Shelly de Peralta, DNP, MSN, NP-CS



Dr. Peralta is the Nurse Senior Scholar for the Veterans Quality Scholars program at Greater Los Angeles. For the last decade, de Peralta has been a cardiology nurse practitioner at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, with responsibilities for managing outpatients and inpatients with cardiac and internal medicine needs. De Peralta serves as co-chair for advanced practice nurses at the VA, and co-chairs an advanced practice nurses review board overseeing the credentialing and peer-review process for the system's 80-plus nurse practitioners. She has also been involved as a statewide legislative liaison for the California Association for Nurse Practitioners. De Peralta has been active in research, presenting abstracts at national and regional meetings; and lectures on cardiac conditions to residents, fellows, nurse practitioners, and other

nurses both within the VA and in the community. She has served as a preceptor for nursing students at UCLA and Case Western University

Contact: Shelly.Deperalta@va.gov

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

Evelyn Chang, MD, MSHS



Evelyn Chang, MD, MSHS is an internist and primary care physician at VA Greater Los Angeles in the Homeless-PACT program and the Serious Mental Illness-PACT program. Dr. Chang attended Baylor College of Medicine, trained at Massachusetts General Hospital Primary Care residency program, and

completed a Master's in Health Services at UCLA as a VA Clinical Scholar. Her research interests include Primary Care-Mental Health Integration and Quality Improvement research. She currently leads the evaluation of a multisite intensive care management initiative

for high-risk Veterans called the VA PACT Intensive Management program, which is funded by the VA Office of Primary Care.

Contact: Evelyn.Chang@va.gov

Emeritus Scholars

Lisa Rubenstein, MD, MSPH, FACP



Lisa Rubenstein 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.

Contact: lisa.rubenstein@va.gov

First Year Fellows

Caleb Cheng, MD



The laboratory and transfusion medicine training was the catalyst for his interest in appropriate blood product usage. In addition, Caleb hopes to implement evidence-based practices, improve efficiencies in the hospital and understand how data can be more effectively utilized in improving care. His projects at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center will involve improving quality as it

relates to the laboratory and understanding SAIL metrics.

Contact: Caleb.Cheng@va.gov

Key Words: Blood bank, efficiency, informatics

Connie Lin, MD



I am interested in drug allergies, and trying to reduce adverse events due to both allergy over-reporting and under-reporting. Currently I am starting a study to de-label penicillin allergies at UCLA. It has been shown in studies done at other institutions that providing appropriate penicillin testing and removing allergies results

in cost-effectiveness, reduced hospital stay, and less toxic medications.

Contact: connielin@mednet.ucla.edu

Key Words: Drug allergies

Second 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 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 and 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

Third Year Fellows

Linda Kim, PhD, MSN, RN, PHN



Linda Kim is a third-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 16 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

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.

Contact: robert.dittus@vanderbilt.edu

Linda Norman, BSN, MSN, DSN



Linda Norman graduated from the University of Virginia with a BSN and MSN in Adult Health Nursing. She received her DSN from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has been involved in nursing education for 35 years, serving in administrative positions for the past 30 years, currently serving as the Dean of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. As a pioneer in the area of quality improvement curriculum, the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) invited her to serve as one of two nurses on the coordinating team for one of their first initiatives, the Interdisciplinary Professional Education Collaborative (IPEC). This national demonstration project incorporated quality improvement methods in the professional education curricula for medicine, nursing, and health administration.

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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

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carol.callawaylane@vanderbilt.edu

Key Words: Quality Improvement, Education, Coaching

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.

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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



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First Year Fellows

Jennifer Lewis, MD



Jennifer Lewis was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. She became interested in preventive medicine as an undergraduate at George Washington University where she earned a Bachelor of Science from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences. She has worked in a variety of research settings including the National Cancer Institute and during medical school, graduating in the research track from The George Washington University School of Medicine in 2011. During Internal Medicine training at Wake Forest, she was recognized as a Tinsley R. Harrison Research Scholar for a project focused on low-dose CT lung cancer screening implementation among academic primary care providers, and this is where her interest in lung cancer, lung cancer early detection, and public health research began. She completed fellowship in medical oncology at Vanderbilt University in 2017. During fellowship and currently, she has expanded her research on low-dose CT lung cancer screening implementation

among academic providers to also include tobacco cessation as well as VA providers. Long-term, she plans to pursue an academic career as a thoracic oncologist and physician-scientist with research interests in the prevention and early detection of lung cancer.

Contact: jennifer.a.lewis@vanderbilt.edu

Robin Mickelson, PhD, RN



Robin Mickelson PhD, RN plans to further her research applying human factors and cognitive systems engineering methods and theories in the home health setting to improve the performance and safety of patient medication management through the design and re-design of patient processes, environments, and tools and technologies. A licensed registered nurse, Robin received her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 2017 and holds a MS degree in Nursing Informatics from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Robin has extensive experience in clinical informatics customizing and implementing electronic health records in the acute care setting. She has authored and co-authored multiple journal articles and presented at national informatics and human factors/ergonomics conferences on the topic of patient-centered work systems analysis and patient health technology design. In 2015, she received the Vanderbilt School of Nursing Dean's Award for Ph.D. Student Excellence in Writing and in 2011, the Maggie Cox Writing Award from the American Nursing Informatics Association.

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Key Words: Medication management, work systems, human factors/ergonomics

Jea Young Min, PharmD



My research interests are in pharmacoepidemiology and medication safety. My current work focuses on evaluating outcomes of antihyperglycemic drug therapy using data from a national cohort of veterans with type 2 diabetes. During the fellowship, I will be finishing my epidemiology PhD dissertation, and continue to gain experience in pharmacoepidemiology as I work on other ongoing studies with my current mentors and research team. I also plan to learn additional skills in quality improvement and work on projects that will help promote the safe and effective use of medications within the VA.

Contact: jea.young.min@vanderbilt.edu

Key Words: Pharmacoepidemiology, comparative effectiveness research, medication safety

Jennifer Robles, MD



Jennifer Robles M.D. completed her residency in Urologic Surgery at Washington University in Saint Louis in 2011. She is currently completing a clinical fellowship in Endourology, Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in addition to being a VA Quality Scholar. Her interests are in Quality Improvement within Surgical

Services, with a focus on Urology. She is interested in implementation (and de-implementation) science and how this can be applied to surgical fields, especially regarding the management of benign diseases which account for the majority of patient visits. She is considering pursuing a project related to improving urology

clinic access at the VA - with possible application of the results to other surgical specialties.

Contact: Jennifer.robles@va.gov

Key Words: Surgical Quality Improvement, Urology, Access to Care

Lucy Spalluto, MD

Dr. Spalluto is a board-certified radiologist. Her clinical work focuses on breast imaging and pelvic and obstetric ultrasound. Dr.



Spalluto is actively involved in patient centered research, faculty development, and teaching residents and medical students. She is currently involved in research projects designed to evaluate women's perceptions of breast density reporting language and to engage community stakeholders in designing methods to increase screening

mammography use in the local medically underserved populations. She serves on the American College of Radiology's Commission on Patient- and Family-Centered Care and Commission on Women and Diversity. Dr. Spalluto holds an adjunct position as an Assistant Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

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Second Year Fellows

Rachel Apple, MD

Rachel completed medical school and residency at Vanderbilt in Med-Peds. She is in her second year of the VAQS fellowship and engaged in shaping systems of care through quality improvement, clinical research, and education. She is also enjoying the Masters of Public Health program at Vanderbilt, through which she is engaged



in research related to obesity epidemiology and prevention. Rachel's research interests include primary care, sports medicine, and medical education.

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Key Words: Prevention, personal, tangible

Shawna Bellew, MD

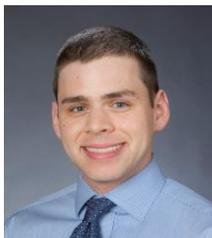


Dr. Bellew desires doctors and patients to have more information when they are making clinical decisions. I hope to achieve this by exploring the use of multimedia to enhance patient education and shared decision making in the emergency department as well as other settings. I am also interested in diagnostic 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

Key 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.

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

Third Year Fellows

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

Caroline Presley, MD



My research interests include improving chronic disease management, particularly type 2 diabetes, focusing on the intersection of health behaviors and mental health with an interest in the role of mindfulness-based interventions. I am currently studying the relationships between mood disorders, health behaviors, and mindfulness in individuals with type 2

diabetes. A long-term goal is to be involved in the development, study, and implementation of mindfulness-based interventions for patients with type 2 diabetes and comorbid mood disorders. My clinical training is in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, and I work in the outpatient Med-Peds clinic at Vanderbilt.

Contact: caroline.a.presley@vanderbilt.edu.

Key Words: Health behaviors, mindfulness, chronic disease management

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.

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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.

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Key Words: Implementation science, geriatrics, complex care

Kirby Lee, PharmD, MAS

Contact: Kirby.Lee2@ucsf.edu

First Year Fellows

Lori Holleran, PhD



My previous research has focused on assessing individuals' abilities to regulate emotions in response to emotionally charged stimuli, examining factors that influence risk for suicide – specifically within high-risk populations, and considering the role of mobile devices in improving functioning amongst individuals with co-morbid disorders (PTSD & SUD). My current research interests focus on injury prevention, primarily the examination of trauma related behavioral outcomes, including subsequent risk for suicide. In addition, I'm interested in examining the utility of policies and programmatic offerings that address and reduce the presence of risk for suicide and violence (e.g., interdisciplinary care teams, lethal

means safety approaches, crisis response strategies).

Contact: lori.holleran@va.gov

Key Words: Injury prevention, Suicide assessment, Lethal means restriction

Lauren Hunt, RN, MSN



My research interests are primarily focused on understanding and improving end-of-life and palliative care for people with dementia. I am particularly interested in understanding risk factors for increased use of high-intensity health care services, such as emergency department visits and hospitalizations, at the end-of-life. I am also interested in the management of pain and other symptoms in people with dementia. My primary research methodology involves leveraging and linking existing datasets for secondary analysis.

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Key Words: Dementia, end-of-life care, secondary analysis of existing datasets

Kaitlin Willham, MD



Dr. Willham is an internist and newly minted geriatrician. She completed medical school and residency at the University of Chicago and geriatric fellowship at University of California San Francisco. Dr. Willham hopes to gain knowledge of quality improvement and implementation to build models of care. As a fellow in the VA Quality Scholars program, she will work on expanding the reach of geriatric medicine through consults.

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Key Words: geriatrics, consults, program building

Second Year Fellows

Daniel David, RN, MS, PhD



I conduct quantitative research investigating patient self-care behavior while contending with serious illness. My current research interests include technology-based interventions that improve palliative care and advance care planning in older adults. I'm a co-investigator on two research studies. The IMPACTT study uses video-based interventions to provide remote palliative care provider services to nursing home residents and their family members. The PREPARE study investigates a patient-facing, interactive advance care planning website. As a VA quality scholar, I have begun work on two QI projects. The first project evaluates a palliative care curriculum for nursing home staff. The second investigates factors that impact hospitalization in heart failure patients.

Contact: Daniel.David@va.gov

Key Words: Palliative care, Advance care planning, patient self-care

Nancy Dudley, PhD, MSN



I use a mixed methods approach to conduct research in the field of palliative care. My research focuses on health workforce research, health policy analysis, and development and implementation of models of care. My goal is to understand how age, advanced illnesses, symptoms, multimorbidity, and functional status impact older adults along the trajectory of

illness, from diagnosis of advanced illness, to integration of primary and specialty palliative care in primary care and the community, before hospice. I am interested in working on mechanisms to improve the continuity of palliative care across care settings. Currently, I am working on a VA project to prospectively identify older adults with advanced illness in primary care to benefit from primary (basic) palliative care. A population health approach is needed to trigger access to this care.

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Key Words: Geriatrics, primary and palliative care, innovative models

Lea Vella, PhD, MPH



Lea Vella is a clinical psychologist who is interested in the integration of behavioral health services in primary care and complex care coordination. Her background includes research in mental health, cognitive impairment, and health services outcomes in homeless populations, as well as in epidemiology, neuropsychology, functional impairment, and cognitive remediation in populations with serious mental illness. She also has a background in statistical analysis in clinical research. Her current clinical and quality improvement projects focus on complex care coordination in primary care, as well as the use of cognitive screening in primary care.

Contact: leavella@gmail.com

Key Words: Behavioral health, Complex care, Integrated health care

White River Junction

Senior Faculty Scholars

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



Brant Oliver is a nurse practitioner, healthcare improvement scientist with sub-specialization in improvement measurement and methodology, and healthcare improvement consultant and educator. Dr. Oliver is Assistant Professor at the Dartmouth Institute and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in New Hampshire, Adjunct Associate Professor at the MGH Institute of Health Professions School of Nursing in Massachusetts, and Faculty Senior Scholar for the VA National Quality Scholars (VAQS) fellowship program at the VA Medical Center VAQS site in Vermont. He co-directs the VAQS program at the WRJ VA site, supervised the VAQS nursing fellows there, and also leads the improvement measurement curriculum for VAQS and the VAQS measurement special interest group. His interests include integrated improvement and implementation sciences research, healthcare improvement education, and improvement of health professions educational services quality.

Contact: brant.j.oliver@dartmouth.edu

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

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 or 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.

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

Greg Ogrinc, MD, MS



Greg Ogrinc, MD, MS is a general internist at the White River Junction VA Hospital in Vermont. He is interim Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and the Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the WRJVA. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine and of the Dartmouth Institute. Dr. Ogrinc graduated from

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 1997 and completed his residency in internal medicine at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland in 2000. He has focused his work on

developing systems of health professions education that incorporate principles of improvement. He is a co-author of the *Fundamental of Healthcare Improvement* book and co-lead for the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQIRE 2.0) guidelines, a set of publication guidelines for sharing quality improvement work through published literature.

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

Emeritus 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.

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Louise.davies@va.gov

Key Words: Improvement Science, Qualitative Research, Surgery

First Year Fellows

Spencer Trooboff, MD, MBA



I completed an MD/MBA at The Ohio State University before returning to my home state of New Hampshire as a Resident in General Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. Following two years of clinical training I'm excited to join the VA Quality Scholars Fellowship, which I will complete alongside a Masters in Healthcare Research through The Dartmouth Institute. Research interests revolve around

measuring and ultimately maximizing the value delivered by surgical service providers (ie. health outcomes achieved per dollars spent). I hope to contribute to measures and assessments of relative value between parallel care pathways, explore variability in appropriate utilization of surgical services and pursue bottom-up development of value oriented processes through QI work.

Contact: swtrooboff@gmail.com

Key Words: Surgery, Value, Variability, Policy

Second 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



Hasna Hakim, DNP, RN, MSN, CCRN is Nursing Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. She is an Adjunct Faculty of the MGH Institute of Health Professions and fellow at VA Quality Scholars Fellowship Program. Dr. Hakim has over 30 years of nursing practice in intensive care practice environments and has served in both bedside and administrative roles. Her interest is to gain more understanding in implementations science in relation to quality and safety. She earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in May 2016. Her research interest is to integrate QI, Innovation, Implementation Science and using informatics as intervention to enhance EBP implementation.

Contact: hhakim@bwh.harvard.edu

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



Holly Randall, DNP, PMHCNS, MS, APRN is a second year VA Quality Scholar Fellow from White River Junction, VT. Her interest is to improve the treatment of PTSD in the primary care setting through quality improvement and education. Holly completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice(DNP) from MGH Institute of Health Professions(MGHIHP) in 2015. In her

first year of the fellowship she has completed the TeamSTEPPS program, Ingrid Benz leadership training, and helped to design a pre-conference workshop at the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) 2017 Conference. Through a collaboration between VAQS and MGHIHP. Holly has completed one year in the Masters of Science in Health Professions Education at MGHIHP. This included the successful completion of the Harvard Macy Advancement in Interprofessional Education coursework. In her background as Associate Director of Behavioral Health Services and Integration at the Lynn Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center, she worked with the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma treating PTSD and depression in the Cambodian and Hispanic refugee populations. Currently she is working with the National Center for PTSD in White River Junction with the VAQS program She practices at the Lynn CHC providing psychopharmacological evaluations and treatment on two primary care teams along with quality improvement initiatives. Throughout her career, she has included yoga, acupuncture and complementary medicines in her work. Her goal in the VAQS program is to advance

quality improvement in behavioral health within the interprofessional healthcare environment

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Key Words: Integration, PTSD, Non-traditional treatments

Third 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 interventions

Toronto

Senior Faculty Scholars

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.

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Key Words: Care Transitions; Systems Performance

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

Faculty Scholars

Nely Amaral, RN, BScN, IBCLC



Contact: Nely.Amaral@sinaihealthsystem.ca

Emeritus 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.

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

First Year Fellows

Sergio Carmona, MD



I'm an Obstetrics & Gynaecology specialist and recently finished my Maternal-Fetal Medicine subspecialty Fellowship Program in the University of Toronto; I also have a deep interest and passion for Health Informatics. As Director of Medical Informatics at Sinai Health System, my main focus is to drive and assist in the development, implementation and maintenance of strategic multi-disciplinary and multi-year plans for IT as well as leading clinical information technology initiatives on behalf of the Sinai Health System. Also, allow the integration of research and clinical education in the electronic health record architecture and workflow for all healthcare providers.

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Key Words: Health Informatics, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Clinical Terminology

Muralidharan Chllamma, MD, DM



I am a Medical Oncologist, trained initially in India. I am currently doing fellowship in Medical Oncology at Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Toronto, Canada. I am currently involved in study looking into the impact of inter-professional approach to care on the management and clinical outcomes of patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I am considering two other potential projects.

One is to standardise the management of patients with malignant bowel obstruction. The other one is to improve in-patient care by looking into roads blocks that delay discharge of in-patients.

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Key Words: Quality of care, pancreatic cancer, malignant bowel obstruction.

Justin Delwo, MD, FRCPC



Justin Delwo completed residency in psychiatry at the University of Toronto with a focus on emergency psychiatry. His clinical practice in this area led him to develop further interests in the areas of trauma and addiction due to the ubiquitous nature of these issues among individuals with mental health concerns. He is currently collaborating with

colleagues at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre on the creation of

a Rapid Access Addiction Medicine clinic (mimicking similar clinics at other hospitals in Toronto as part of a larger project) and is exploring methods of measuring the outcomes of this clinic as it is created. He also hopes to promote education and knowledge translation of trauma-informed care and addictions among allied health professionals on the inpatient psychiatry unit at Sunnybrook, before examining how to do so in a larger scale throughout the hospital.

Contact: justin.delwo@mail.utoronto.ca

Key Words: Trauma in Mental Health, Addictions, Education

Juan Posado, MD



Juan is originally from Colombia, he completed his residency training (General Internal Medicine and Adult Cardiology) and then went on to complete his fellowship (Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation) at the University of Toronto. During his training, Juan was Chief Cardiology Resident (Sunnybrook Health Sciences) and then Chief Fellow both for the Heart Failure/Transplant and Multi-Organ

Transplant Fellowship Programs. He has a strong interest in the area of quality having completed the Co-Learning curriculum in Quality Improvement and a 1-year certificate course in Quality Improvement both through the Centre For Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (C-QUIPS) at the University of Toronto. His current focus is to improve the screening rates of iron deficiency among ambulatory patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction at the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre.

Contact: Juan.DueroPosada@uhn.ca

Second 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

Yas Moayedi, MD, FRCPC



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

Marie-Michele Gaudreault-Tremblay, MD, FRCPC



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

VAQS Coordinating Center

Houston Program Faculty

Director, VA Quality Scholars

Aanand Naik, MD



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.

Contact: Aanand.naik@va.gov

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

Associate Director for Nurse Scholars

Jane Anderson, PhD, APRN, FNP-C



I am the 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

Associate Director for Curriculum and Program Operations

Kyler Godwin, PhD, MPH



I am trained as a behavioral scientist and health services researcher with a focus on developing, delivering and evaluating interventions for a variety of learners. Currently, I oversee all operations and facilitate curriculum development and delivery as well as program and learner evaluation for our post-doctoral fellowships,

including VA Quality Scholars. I provide mentorship for the Houston Health Professions Education Evaluation and Research Fellows. I also oversee the evaluation of and provide QI project mentorship the Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Medicine Vice Chair Group for Quality Improvement and Innovation.

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Key Words: Medical education, behavioral science, public health

Associate Director for Program Evaluation

Sylvia Hysong, PhD



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.

Contact: hysong@bcm.edu

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

Associate Director for Physician Scholars

LeChauncy Woodard, MD, MPH



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



I am a hospitalist-investigator at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety (IQuEST) at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. I am a former Chief Resident in Quality and Safety at the Houston VA and completed a 2-year Health Services Research Fellowship at IQuEST prior to starting my current faculty position. My research interests focus on the evaluation of national hospital-based performance measures and developing interventions to improve older adult and caregiver engagement during care transitions. In addition to my work with the VA Quality Scholars Program, I am also a mentor for the Chief Resident in Quality and Safety Program at the Houston VA and I provide QI project mentorship for faculty at Baylor College of Medicine through the Department of Medicine Vice Chair Group for Quality Improvement and Innovation.

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Key Words: Quality of Care, Human-Centered Design, Care Transitions

Diana Stewart, MD, MBA



Dr. Stewart is a hospitalist with dual training 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

Educational Leadership Fellows

Megan Gregory, PhD

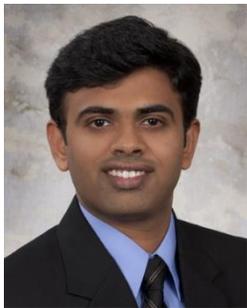


Dr. Gregory obtained her Ph.D. in industrial-organizational psychology from the University of Central Florida in 2015. Her interests include developing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs and interventions in healthcare. She has particular expertise in teamwork, training, and advanced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

Contact: Megan.Gregory2@va.gov

Key Words: Teamwork, training, measurement and evaluation

Srikar Mapakshi, MD



Srikar R. Mapakshi is an advanced postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQeSt). He completed his residency at Baton Rouge General - Tulane Internal Medicine program. He is interested in liver related disorders, particularly in ensuring that patients with cirrhosis receive high-quality of care. He is currently working on a QI project using population based identification and management of patients with cirrhosis.

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Claire Campbell, MD



I am currently in an advanced geriatric fellowship focusing on education and quality improvement. I have an internal medicine background and worked as a hospitalist for a couple of years prior to pursuing further geriatric training. I am very interested in transitions of care between the hospital and home. I have a particular interest in home based primary care as well.

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Key Words: Transitions of Care

Coordinating Staff

Tracey Rosen, MSPH



Tracey Rosen is a QI Program Specialist at the VAQS Coordinating Center and a Research Coordinator at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine. She assists in VAQS curriculum planning, operations, and evaluation. She also coordinates colorectal cancer screening surveillance and antibiotic stewardship research projects. Her interests include health systems improvement, qualitative research, and chronic disease prevention. She has previously conducted qualitative interviews as part of quality improvement and implementation projects and conducted pilot program evaluations. She holds a Master of Science in Public Health in Population, Family, and Reproductive Health from the Johns

Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Michigan.

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Jacqueline Shahin, MA



Jacky Shahin, MA is a Research Coordinator II at the VAQS Coordinating Center, at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. In addition to helping coordinate Summer Institute and disseminating curriculum for the VA Quality Scholars Program, she assists Baylor faculty investigate ways to improve care and optimize the post-discharge process

for Veterans. Her prior experience is in animal research, particularly focusing on nicotine withdrawal and its effects on sleep in the rat. She received a Master of Arts in General Psychology with a concentration in Behavioral Neuroscience and her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

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