



**November 2020 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more**

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## A Message from Karen Wolk Feinstein, JHF President and CEO:

As we approach a winter of challenges and opportunities, JHF embarks on a new one-year initiative to pursue policy change in three areas. This is not “business as usual”—the election year transition holds the promise of significant reforms and the pandemic has exposed the flaws in our health system that make these reforms urgent. To that end, we’ve taken a new approach, a *Full Court Press*, creating three teams to concentrate on three critical policy solutions. We propose a National Patient and Provider Safety Authority as well as new models for comprehensive maternity care and for senior residential living. November saw the first meetings for our three teams, which included national and statewide experts.

We have also put the “finishing touches” on Liftoff PGH, which promises to make our December memorable. [Please join us](#) as we launch toward the frontiers of health technology innovation.

## Patient Safety and Technology Full Court Press Team Launches

The *Full Court Press* Patient Safety Policy Team, which advocates for a National Patient and Provider Safety Authority (NPSA), convened in November for their first virtual meeting. [Team members](#), who include Board members from JHF and its operating arm, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI), were joined by key national thought leaders, bringing together centuries of combined experience and industry knowledge to help build effective policies. “The idea of centralizing and elevating provider and patient safety has catapulted to the attention of those who can make it happen... We’re on the court today with all the right players,” said Steve Irwin, JD, a Co-Chair of the Team and PRHI Board.



*Patient Safety Policy Team members attend the first virtual Full Court Press Team meeting.*

The Team builds on JHF’s and PRHI’s decades of work in patient safety, and combines two of the organizations’ recent initiatives (SWERVE and [Liftoff PGH](#)) at the intersection of patient safety and innovation. After first recommending an NPSA in 2007, the Foundation’s SWERVE initiative is reviving its advocacy for an NPSA, and Liftoff PGH is JHF’s project to elevate health innovations in the Pittsburgh region that will culminate in a December 2020 virtual health innovation conference. Together, these two initiatives, guided by the new Patient Safety Policy Team, will advance the NPSA policy agenda and maximize the benefits of a centralized, national patient safety approach based in powerful data analytics and autonomous technologies. The transportation industry has

been doing this successfully for years with the National Transportation Safety Board, a model that can be adapted to support a national standard of safety for both patients and providers.

The beginnings of automated tech are already seen in today's healthcare, and there are many opportunities for future innovations. During the first Team meeting, Michael McShea, MS, MBA, Health System Innovation Lead for the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), shared how data collection and autonomous tech like artificial intelligence and machine learning can combine to boost safety of care. Johns Hopkins is already leveraging this technology with their state-of-the-art [command and control center](#) that remotely monitors and manages patient care to prevent and resolve problems 24/7. McShea also highlighted [MDIRA](#), an APL-supported framework that can help medical systems work safely and effectively together and involves autonomous technology. In the future of healthcare, these models could easily be re-purposed to monitor and act on the data gathered by autonomous patient safety technologies across the nation.

David Classen, MD, MS, Chief Medical Informatics Officer at patient safety organization Pascal Metrics, further built the case for using current and future technologies to support an NPSA. He explained that, by mining data from all types of existing electronic health records, health systems and hospitals have the ability to effectively monitor and anticipate medical errors. "We've already demonstrated, with current EHRs, that we can move into a real-time detection and intervention system with safety," Classen said, noting that this successful approach could easily be employed at a national level, using artificial intelligence and machine learning. "It is possible, literally with today's current technology, to develop an NPSA-like approach."

Gary Kaplan, MD, Chairman and CEO of Virginia Mason Medical Center, expanded on the role of command centers in a safety focused organization. He said, "Command Centers are critical to our ability as complex adaptive systems to actually understand what we are doing and understand how we're doing it, and to monitor its impact." To support an NPSA, health systems could repurpose their command centers to autonomously monitor and alert care teams and family members of patient safety events. Kaplan pointed to the importance of addressing barriers, such as myths about cost, and the resistance to change that often exists within health systems. When moving towards effective, autonomous patient safety monitoring, "It takes both great people and great systems working together," he said.

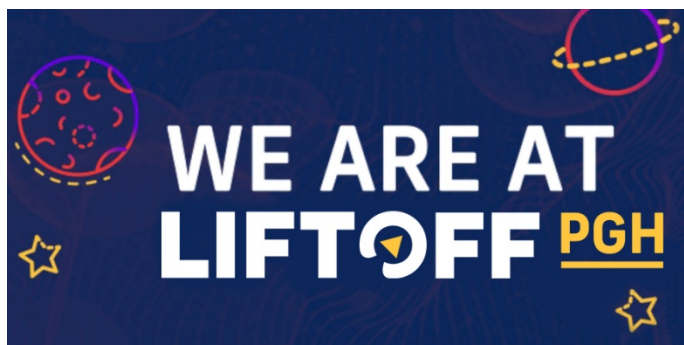
Other key guests for the first meeting included **Carolyn Clancy**, MD, Assistant Undersecretary for Health, Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks (DEAN) of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **James Gelfand**, JD, Senior Vice President of Health Policy at the ERISA Industry Committee at ERIC; **Helen Haskell**, MA, Founder and President of Mothers Against Medical Error; **Marty Hatlie**, JD, Co-Director of the MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety and CEO of Project Patient Care; **David Mayer**, MD, CEO of the Patient Safety Movement Foundation and Executive Director of the MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety; Elizabeth Mitchell, President and CEO of the Pacific Business Group on Health; **Tom Mitchell**, PhD, E. Fredkin University Professor, Machine Learning Department, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University; **Scott Newton**, DNP, RN, MHA, Executive Director of Clinical Operations at TeleTracking, Inc.; **Janis M. Orlowski**, MD,

MACP, Chief Health Care Officer at the Association of American Medical Colleges; and **Lisa Simpson**, MB, BCh, MPH, FAAP, President & CEO of AcademyHealth.

The Team has plans to advance autonomous technology efforts through the Liff PGH 2020 conference happening in December, and to promote the NPSA through policy tactics and coalitions going into 2021, including at one of the newly announced 2021 Academy Health salons. With the combined experience of all involved, JHF is well-positioned to make an impact to improve health across the nation.

## Liff PGH is In Flight

The wait is over: The fun at Liff PGH begins today! We are thrilled to share a jam-packed lineup of virtual panels, thought talks, networking sessions, and much more. From December 1-14, we've designed a schedule that will fit into your current work/home needs. Then join us December 15 for an all-day live broadcast featuring host of the [Hidden Brain](#) Shankar Vedantam, followed by a day of interactive workshops on December 16<sup>th</sup>.



### A couple of unique features to look out for:

1. **DAILY BRAIN BREAKS:** Featuring 20-minute virtual yoga sessions, a virtually guided neighborhood walk, or a socially distanced trip to our outdoor art exhibit in Downtown's Cultural District.
2. **NEXT-GEN NETWORKING:** We have multiple ways to meet real people, either through virtual lunch time discussions, rapid-fire happy hours, or one-on-one meetings.
3. **THOUGHT TALKS:** When you need a moment of inspiration, check out one of our daily digital thought talks, like Games for Health, featuring founder of nationally acclaimed video game firm Schell Games Jesse Schell. [Click here for the full schedule!](#)

You can also get out of the house to visit our unique art exhibit, created by Pittsburgh-based artists Alisha B. Wormsley and Ricardo Iamuri Robinson, in partnership with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in their 7<sup>th</sup> Street [Trust Oasis](#) outdoor art installation space downtown. Like nothing you've ever seen before, this combination of images and sound will take you on an outer space journey without ever leaving the 'burgh! The exhibit opens Friday, December 4.

The winter doldrums are upon us, but Liff PGH can bring a splash of brightness to your day. [Register today](#) to give your December a punch of inspiration.



## Jewish Healthcare Foundation Grants \$160,000 to Innovation Works Healthcare Safety Competition

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has granted [Innovation Works](#) (IW) \$160,000 to support the 2021 “Hardware Cup” International Healthcare Safety Competition. This new competition will prepare the Pittsburgh region to lead the development of the technologies necessary for the National Patient and Provider Safety Authority (NPSA), a patient safety solution currently proposed in JHF’s Full Court Press policy focus.

The Competition will be a natural and complimentary next step after Ltoff PGH 2020, JHF’s health innovation summit happening in December 2020 with a focus on the regional intersections of healthcare and entrepreneurship, education, and technology. IW’s Healthcare Safety Competition recognizes our region’s potential for leading health innovation and patient safety. Southwestern Pennsylvania already possesses strong academic institutions, technology startups and a wealth of investors and corporate partners. The new Competition will further encourage collaboration within the various industries and introduce more health-safety-related companies and startups to the extensive curriculum and network of IW’s software, hardware, and life sciences accelerators. Cross-industry collaboration will develop technologies that the NPSA can use to predict and prevent errors before they happen, as the National Transportation Safety Board already does with great success. This catalyst is just what the region needs to kickstart solving the persistent medical error problem.

The Competition aims to draw at least 35-50 entrepreneurial applicants, from healthcare and other industries, to encourage companies to adapt their products and technology to solve problems in the healthcare safety sector.

To make Pittsburgh a true epicenter for influential innovation, we must plant a flag as a center of excellence within the health innovation ecosystem. Moving into the new year, this partnership will leverage the strengths and experience of JHF and the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative in patient safety and medical error reduction, as well as the IW international community’s technological expertise. JHF aims to spark a vibrant industry around patient safety automation in Pittsburgh, which others can apply across the country and around the world.



## JHF Announces Grant to AcademyHealth for Health Policy Salon Series

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) approved a \$50,000 grant for [AcademyHealth](#) to organize a “Health Policy Salon Series” during 2021 to spark momentum at the federal level on the three policy targets for JHF’s *Full Court Press* initiative. These three policy areas include creating a National Patient & Provider Safety Authority (NPSA) to apply creative technology solutions to the problem of patient safety, changing the financial and regulatory policies to redesign residential services for frail seniors, and advancing policy changes related to WIC, midwives, and perinatal Community Health Workers to develop a comprehensive approach to pregnancy and postpartum care.



The AcademyHealth Salon Series will include one Salon session for each *Full Court Press* policy objective, and all three Salons will occur during the first quarter of 2021. The Salons are modeled after policy forums that Judy Miller Jones, MA, Director of the National Health Policy Forum at George Washington University, used to create for legislators and key staffers on the Hill. These forums created a closed, off-the-record space for the policymakers and their key staff members to learn about issues and policy solutions.

AcademyHealth’s national reputation for being evidence-based and engaging the right people will allow them to successfully organize the Salon series. Since its inception, AcademyHealth has been advancing the field of health services research by acting as an objective broker of information, bringing together stakeholders to address the current and future needs of an evolving health system and to inform health policy and practice. JHF has worked with AcademyHealth over the years to organize similar policy forums. Most recently, this included the adolescent behavioral [health policy summit](#) in 2019 that produced a [national policy playbook](#) endorsed by key stakeholders.

The closed-door Health Policy Salons will be designed to raise awareness of JHF’s *Full Court Press* policy issues and spark a discussion about the evidence-based policy options to address them. All activities will be virtual, bi-partisan, and draw on the latest evidence available from the field of health services research, existing policy recommendations, and models of success. Following each Salon, AcademyHealth will anonymize and synthesize the discussion, priorities, and action items into visual evidence briefs. These briefs will include shareable infographics for distribution to relevant policymaking audiences and other key stakeholders who can advance the solutions.

## Leah Binder Acknowledges National Patient Safety Authority in Forbes Magazine

Many congratulations and thanks to Leah Binder, President and CEO of The Leapfrog Group, on the publication of her article for Forbes, “Five Health Care Campaigns That Can Heal The Partisan Rift And Save Lives.” Number one on the list? Establish a National Patient and Provider Safety Authority to address lives lost from medical error. We completely agree: Now more than ever, it’s time to move on this crucial issue. Read the full article [here](#).



## Maternity Full Court Press Team Assembles

The new Comprehensive Approaches to Pregnancy and Postpartum Care Full Court Press Team will focus on advancing state and local policy objectives for midwives, WIC, and doulas/perinatal community health workers. These efforts will build on JHF’s past work in women’s health and connections with state leadership, health systems, and stakeholders.

“We have been on the forefront of women’s health improvements regionally, and this is a monumental day for us to talk about change that we are going to make,” said HCF

Board Chair and Full Court Press Maternity Chair Pat Siger during the first Team meeting, held virtually in November. [Team members](#), including JHF and Health Careers Futures (HCF) Board members and outside experts, had the rare opportunity to collaborate across specialties of Pennsylvania perinatal health providers, WIC and doula advocates, and midwives.

During the first Team meeting, Emily McGahey, CNM, MSN, State Legislative Committee Co-Chair of the American College of Nurse-Midwives Pennsylvania Affiliate presented policy asks and tactics around the modernization of professional midwifery in Pennsylvania. McGahey noted, “There is an abundance of research documenting safe outcomes with midwives, globally and here



*A virtual meeting provided the opportunity for pregnancy and postpartum care advocates from across Pennsylvania to collaborate on policy discussions.*



in the states, but unfortunately there are many barriers to midwifery practice.” McGahey identified five legislative priorities to addressing these barriers: licensure of certified midwives, update the regulatory language, allow prescription of medicated assisted treatment by midwives, modernize collaborative agreements, and create a midwifery liaison committee to the PA Board of Medicine.

Darlena Birch, MBA, RDN, Senior Public Health Nutritionist of the National WIC Association (the nonprofit education arm and advocacy voice of WIC) presented federal and state policy targets to support comprehensive and more equitable WIC programs. These include increasing opportunities for WIC participants to access services remotely/online, expanding access for the postpartum period and for children up to age six, and co-locating WIC centers and community health centers in the same building for “one-stop shopping.” In addition, improved coordination between WIC and physicians/health systems will be more effective and supportive to WIC participants. State WIC programs including New Jersey and Maryland have already seen success by implementing changes like these, and Pennsylvania could see similar results by following their models.

JHF Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH presented policy levers to certify and reimburse perinatal community health workers and doulas in PA, possibly through amended Medicaid payment models. The Team could also model JHF’s past work in creating a Certified Community Health Worker Credential for Pennsylvania and support the development of a state doula certification credential and advisory board as well.

Moving into 2021, the Team will next meet in January and continue collaboration between members, to better support comprehensive care of pregnant and birthing persons across Pennsylvania.

## Salk Fellowship Celebrates International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

The 2020 Salk Health Activist Fellowship concluded on November 19<sup>th</sup>, culminating in a project to connect the 27 fellows with legislators. The fellows reflected on how the fellowship experience will impact them as the push for healthcare transformation in the future.

Every year, the Salk Health Activist Fellowship seeks to instill in young healthcare professionals the skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for improvements in the U.S. healthcare system. This year, which the [WHO deemed](#) the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, the Salk Fellowship focused on Pennsylvania policy change for maternal and reproductive health issues. For the first time, the Fellowship included fellows from across Pennsylvania, to most effectively address statewide policy issues. The cohort represented young professionals and multidisciplinary graduate students, who hailed from twelve universities





and represented seventeen different degrees, all with a shared passion for maternal and reproductive health and policy change.

Over the course of nine weeks, the fellows heard from over 20 guest speakers, including experts in maternal health advocacy, policymaking, community organizing, lobbying, and casemaking. The Fellowship took a deep dive into understanding the policy process and policy levers available to make systemic change. Each week, the fellows gained new insights and skills as they worked towards their final project: engaging with a Pennsylvania State Representative or Senator in a 20-minute conversation to advocate for a maternal and reproductive health issue.

“The Salk Health Activist Fellowship blew my expectations out of the water,” said Mitali Ray, PhD, BSN, postdoctoral scholar at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. “The program delivers by not only teaching skills, strategies, and frameworks for how to implement advocacy to create lasting change, but it also provides fellows with an impressive network of potential collaborators and mentors alike. I feel an immense sense of gratitude for having been able to participate in such an impactful program whose resources will undoubtedly continue to guide me throughout my career.”

Due to JHF’s history of partnership with various legislators from Harrisburg, JHF coordinated with 14 different representatives and senators to meet with the fellows across 15 different conversations. Fellows crafted a compelling case for their issue and made an ask of the legislator. Some examples of the issues selected by fellows included expanding Medicaid coverage in the postpartum period, requesting support for legislation promoting maternal mental health access, as well as proposing ideas to address midwifery and doula shortages in the Commonwealth. The response from legislators was overwhelmingly positive, with some fellows already setting up future conversations at the start of the new year once the new legislative session begins.

Looking towards 2021, the Foundation is focused more intentionally on driving policy change through the *Full Court Press* initiative. The fellows’ legislative conversations fit into the broader process of raising these issues, and JHF will continue to follow alumni as they advocate post-fellowship. Fellow Jessica Davis, BSN plans to submit an op-ed about proper lactation for publication, which she would not have done without the confidence she built in this fellowship, she said. Many other fellows shared crucial insights that will guide their careers and personal advocacy moving forward.

“I have learned so much, but the opportunity to talk with two state legislators and the realization of how personal this policy work was for me really made the experience incredibly valuable,” said Rebecca Clark, PhD, MSN, BSN, postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. “I have also identified a number of other opportunities to continue to engage in maternal health policy work at the state level. Policy is personal. The Salk Fellowship helped me to see that and gave me the tools to do something about it.”

We want to thank the following State Representatives and Senators and staff members who met with our fellows:

- Nick Centurione, Constituent Services Advisor to Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D – 148)
- Sen. Jay Costa (D – 43)
- Rep. Austin Davis (D – 35)
- Rep. Ed Gainey (D – 24)
- Colleen Greer, Legislative Director to Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R – 46)
- Rep. Sara Innamorato (D – 21)
- Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R – 134)
- Lee Mooney, Chief of Staff to Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D – 148)
- Grace Muller, Deputy District Director to Sen. Lindsey Williams (D – 38)
- Rep. Donna Oberlander (R – 63)
- Paige Riegner, Legislative Director to Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R – 134)
- Seth Rolko, Executive Director to Sen. Lisa Boscola (D – 18)
- Anjelica Sanders, Policy Director to Rep. Morgan Cephas (D – 192)
- Sen. Judy Schwank (D – 11)
- Mackenzie Strunk, Chief of Staff to Rep. Rosemary Brown (R – 189)
- Sen. Judy Ward (R – 30)

## Senior Care Full Court Press Team Addresses Current Crisis

As part of the Full Court Press initiative, the [Senior Living Team](#) aims to advance policies to develop a renewed model of senior living. The Team of Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and Health Careers Futures Board members first met in November, along with outside expert speakers. Recognizing the need for immediate action on the current COVID-19 surges in long-term care facilities, the Team dedicated their first meeting to brainstorming immediate solutions to support facilities and prevent further spread of the pandemic that has disproportionately affected seniors and those in long-term care.



*The Full Court Press Senior Living Team gathered virtually to address immediate concerns around COVID-19 and senior living.*

Raising awareness of the issue will be crucial to mobilizing action in the coming weeks, the Team agreed. JHF's new documentary, "What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care," can act as a vehicle and a window into how the pandemic has ravaged unprepared long-term care facilities. The Team, who were among the first to view the documentary, shared rave reviews of the documentary's quality and its treatment of residents' and workers' stories.

Ken Ho, MD, MPH of the University of Pittsburgh shared the most recent COVID-19 treatment and prevention options for seniors and residents of long-term care facilities, noting that there are now three vaccine candidates showing sufficient efficacy to potentially be approved for use. The Team discussed ways to ensure that long-term care residents and employees will be prioritized to receive a COVID-19 vaccine immediately when it is available, as well as strategies to promote the vaccine's uptake by residents and the long-term care workforce.

A panel moderated by Seniors Team Chair Eric Rodriguez, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics at the University of Pittsburgh and geriatrics medical consultant with UPMC, then centered the discussion on immediate concerns about COVID-19 for long-term care and the necessary action for the next few months. Panelists included David Nace, MD, MPH, Chief of Medical Affairs at UPMC Senior Communities; Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA, Vice President and Executive Medical Director at Highmark Home and Community Services, and Molly Langford, MSN, CRNP, Senior Director of Clinical Practice at Genesis Physician Services.

The Team discussed concerns about whether long-term care will suffer funding deficiencies should further CARES Act aid fail to be allocated. Long-term care could receive a further blow if Pennsylvania's Regional Response Health Collaborative Program (RRHCP), for which JHF has been a lead educator, does not receive renewed funding into 2021. Those outside of PA have called the RRHCP a "crown jewel" of state COVID-19 long-term care assistance programs, according to David Nace. The program has connected academic medical centers and health systems throughout the Commonwealth, and it has been instrumental in providing PA long-term care facilities with vital supports (including testing, staffing, education, and resources) during the pandemic. The loss of these resources would be significant if the program is discontinued. "If the RRHC program is not re-upped, Pennsylvania doesn't have a plan to manage outbreaks in long-term care. There is no question about it. We don't have a plan B," Nace said.

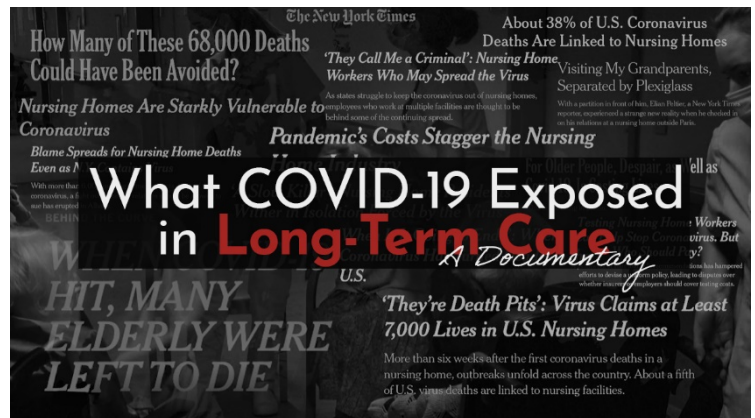
Others expressed concerns about testing turnaround times and reliability, staffing, obtaining the necessary resources to keep staff and residents safe, and reimbursement. Speaker Marc Cohen, PhD, Co-director of the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston and Research Director of Community Catalyst, shared details on the projected consequences of potential further cuts to Medicaid. Nursing homes are increasingly dependent on Medicaid financing, Cohen noted, and cuts would be highly detrimental to facilities and their residents. Further details on this issue will be shared in a forthcoming JHF-commissioned LeadingAge study, "Making the Case for Long-Term Care Reimbursement In Pennsylvania."

The meeting ended with a discussion of strategic short-term concerns that will need to be advanced at both the state and federal levels to assure that adequate funding and resources are made available during the ongoing and projected upcoming surges of COVID-19. The Team also noted that increased collaboration between health care and aging organizations will be crucial going forward. Moving into the new year, the Team will next meet in January to kickstart their long-term policy discussion about models for senior living.

Read Karen Feinstein's Health Affairs op-ed "What COVID-19 Exposed in Long Term Care" [here](#).

## New Documentary Sheds Light on Causes of COVID-19 Crisis in Nursing Homes

A new documentary short film, entitled ***What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care***, has finished production, and is now available for viewing [online](#). The documentary examines how the COVID-19 crisis has devastated many long-term care facilities across the country, regardless of quality and safety records. Experts discuss how even the best skilled nursing facilities' clinical capacity has been weakened by forces beyond their control: inadequate resources, a feeble response from our health systems and public health authorities, and years of underfunding.



The film features insight from long-term care experts including Marc Cohen, PhD, Co-director, the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston; Terry Fulmer, President, The John A Hartford Foundation; Ashish Jha, MD, MPH, Dean of the School of Public Health, Brown University; Daniel Haimowitz, MD, Internist, Geriatrician, Medical Director; Christopher Laxton, CAE, Executive Director, AMDA – The Society For Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine; Vincent Mor, PhD, MEd, Professor of Health Services, Policy & Practice, Brown University; Katie Smith-Sloan, LeadingAge; David Thimons, DO, President & CEO, Personal Care Medical Associates; Paul Winkler, President & CEO, The Presbyterian SeniorCare Network; Deborah Winn-Horvitz, President & CEO, Jewish Association on Aging; and Louis Woolf, President & CEO, Hebrew SeniorLife.

Over the past month, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has shared the trailer for the JHF-funded documentary at a number of virtual meetings within our community, including the Jewish Funders Learning Network, the annual Meeting of the Southwestern PA Partnerships for Aging (SWPPA), the Fall 2020 program of the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society-Western Division, and the Coalition for Quality at End of Life (CQEL). The film will serve as a storytelling and casemaking tool for JHF's *Full Court Press* initiative, as the new Senior Residential Living Team seeks to change the financial and regulatory policies in order to redesign residential services for frail seniors.

Interested in viewing the film? Watch it online [here](#).



## Karen Feinstein in Health Affairs: What COVID-19 Exposed in Long Term Care

COVID-19 uncovered deep flaws in the long-term care system that have been worsening for decades. Consistent with the neglect that caused these flaws, the federal government offered beleaguered nursing homes weak and inconsistent aid to save lives when the pandemic predictably ravaged senior communities across the country. We should have expected a swift and robust effort to provide all the necessary resources (funding, supplies, adequate testing and staffing, shared clinical expertise) to protect our seniors. This did not come.

**Link to Full Article:**

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20201104.718974/full/>



## National Academy of Sciences and Medicine Launches Senior Living Study

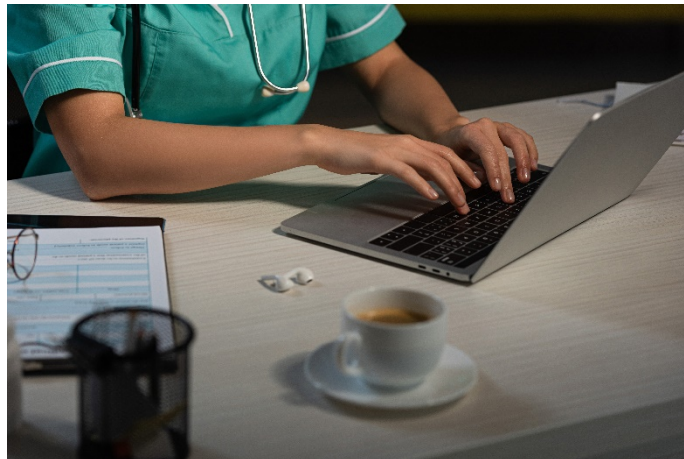
The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed significant challenges to providing quality senior care, many of which have existed in our senior living model for decades. With the aim of finding a solution, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation is pleased to support a new study from the National Academies of Sciences and Medicine (NASEM) called [\*The Quality of Care in Nursing Homes\*](#). NASEM held the first meeting to launch the study on November 12.

The Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes will meet over the next year to examine how our nation delivers, regulates, finances and measures quality of nursing home care. The primary sponsor is The John A Hartford Foundation with additional support by the Commonwealth Fund, The Sephardic Foundation, The Samuels Foundation and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Karen Wolk Feinstein and Nancy D. Zions attended the initial public meeting of the Study Committee and shared their hopes that their work would advance bold new models of residential living for frail seniors, offering solutions to longstanding issues of affordability, quality, safety, staffing and financing. As the work of the Committee proceeds, JHF hopes to have members share their insights and progress with the Residential Living for Seniors Full Court Press Team.



## PA Extends Long-Term Care COVID-19 Support Program

Over the past five months, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation has served as a lead educator in the Regional Response Health Collaboratives Program (RRHCP), which aims to support long-term care residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The RRHCP is a partnership between the [PA Department of Human Services](#) (PA DHS), the [PA Department of Health](#), the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), and key healthcare organizations and health systems across the Commonwealth. The continued presence of COVID-19 in long-term care has led the PA DHS to extend the RRHCP.



As the leader of the RRHCP statewide Learning Network, JHF has provided webinars on over 40 different topics to over 1800 skilled nursing and assisted living/personal care facilities throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, over 3500 individual program participants have joined in JHF's online web-based learning portal communities on *Tomorrow's HealthCare*. The Learning Network will continue to provide webinars for the facilities until December, but we have entered a new phase of our work. JHF has met with the RRHCP Teams and Education Committee to begin developing "toolkits," including standard operating procedures and education guides, to help facilities become more self-sufficient once the RRHCP program ends. The goal is to provide tested tools and educational materials in such topics as: Obtaining PPE, Infection Control, Testing & Cohorting, Contact Tracing, & Staff Education and Support.

## Nancy D. Zions Receives Kelly Pruitt Award for Age-Friendly Leadership

On November 24, Jewish Healthcare Foundation COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy D. Zions, MBA was given the Pruitt/Kelly Award of Excellence for Age-Friendly Leadership from the Southwestern PA Partnerships for Aging at their annual virtual meeting. The award was presented by Paul Winkler, President and CEO of Presbyterian SeniorCare, a long-time partner of JHF. Paul said the award is given to honor Nancy's 25+ years as an aging champion through her work at JHF, stating that Nancy has been at the table for every significant conversation about advancing the cause of aging in the region and the state. Most recently, Nancy's work has focused on the implementation of Community Health Choices and the development of a statewide Learning Network for providers as part of the Educational Support and Clinical Coaching Program and Regional Response Health Collaborative Program during the pandemic. Paul stated that Nancy upholds the values of the award's namesakes, both Mary Anne Kelly and Charlie Pruitt, both of whom Nancy



knew well and worked with and learned from for years. We are proud to congratulate Nancy on the receipt of this award and grateful for her collaboration and service to JHF and seniors across Pennsylvania.

## David Ehrenwerth Retires as JHF Board Chair, JHF Welcomes New Board Leadership and Members

As we approach a new year that brings transitions in our board, JHF honors Board Chair David Ehrenwerth, JD as his three-year tenure comes to an end. David's support of JHF began in 1990, with the Foundation's creation. As a board member of Montefiore Hospital and one of its lawyers, he handled the sale of Montefiore to UPMC and the transfer of funds to establish the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. David then served as one of the original trustees, and recently served as Vice Chair. David has supported the Foundation's work every step of the way, and we are grateful for his decades of service.



*David Ehrenwerth, JD*

As Board Chair, David championed many of JHF's key initiatives, including the Bystander Boards, WHAMglobal and AIDS Free Pittsburgh's activities, the Feinstein Fellowships, Senior Connections, the Adolescent Behavioral Health Initiative including the seed funding to launch UpStreet, and SWERVE. 2020 of course brought new challenges and opportunities, with a move to a new office space in EQT Tower, while the COVID-19 pandemic required long-term remote work and meetings. David played a key role in organizing the COVID-19 emergency grants JHF funded during the early weeks of the pandemic. The year will culminate with the Liftoff PGH 2020 health innovation conference, held in a reimagined virtual format, and the birth of the Full Court Press policy initiative, which will continue into 2021. David's leadership buoyed JHF during this time and assured that we could maintain our working community together even while apart.

A partner at K&L Gates since 1979, David, a native of Duquesne in the Mon Valley, has been involved in politics and public service throughout his career. After graduating from Harvard Law in 1972, he worked as an assistant attorney general for Pennsylvania before joining the firm in 1974. He served in the Obama Administration from 2010 through 2012, serving as a regional administrator of the General Services Administration and later associate commissioner of the U.S. Public Buildings Service.

When asked about his vision for the future of JHF, on the Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, David said, "Since we are a think tank and a stimulator of ideas, I'd like us to continue to creatively develop approaches for keeping people healthy and making certain that health care is compassionate and effective." JHF fully intends to take this approach into the new year, as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone. We are pleased to announce and welcome new Board leadership and members in 2021:

CHAIR: Debra L. Caplan, MPA  
VICE CHAIR: Daniel Rosen, PhD, MSW  
TREASURER: Michael H. Ginsberg, JD  
SECRETARY: Steve D. Irwin, JD

New Board Members:

**Rachel P. Berger**, MD, MPH, Chief of the Division of Child Advocacy at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh

**Leah Binder**, MA, MGA, President and CEO, The Leapfrog Group

**Sonya Borrero**, MD, MS, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for Women's Health Research and Innovation at the University of Pittsburgh; Associate Director of the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion and Staff Physician, VA Pittsburgh's Women's Health Clinic

**Rachel Eglash**, DMD, Chestnut Hills Dental

**Andrew W. Eller**, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Ocular Trauma Service and Retina and Vitreous Services at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Medical Director of the UPMC Eye Care Network

**Marya Sea Kaminski**, MFA, Artistic Director, Pittsburgh Public Theater

**Nancy L. Rackoff**, JD, Eckert Seamans

**Audrey Russo**, MPA, BSW, President and CEO, Pittsburgh Technology Council

**Alan Andrew Scheller-Wolf**, PhD, Richard M. Cyert Professor of Operations Management at the Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University

**Maliha Zahid**, MD, PhD, FACC, Cardiologist, UPMC Children's Hospital and ExcelsiorHealth Physician Practices; Assistant Professor of Developmental Biology, University of Pittsburgh



## AHN, Highmark, and UPMC Join Together Again to Fund AIDS Free Pittsburgh

[AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#) (AFP) has received renewed funding commitments from [Allegheny Health Network](#) (AHN), [UPMC](#), and new project funding from the [Highmark Foundation](#) to support its work towards ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County during 2021-2025. Despite most attention on the current COVID-19 pandemic, local health systems continue to fund critical programs to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County.



AFP is a collaborative initiative comprised of government agencies, healthcare institutions, and community-based organizations that strive to support and improve the care of people living with HIV/AIDS and other key populations. Over the past five years, AFP has made positive strides in reducing the number of new HIV/AIDS cases in Allegheny County, with a 32% decrease in new HIV cases and a 23% decrease in new AIDS diagnoses from 2015-2019. This is likely due in part to increases in PrEP for HIV prevention and expedited linkage to care for those newly diagnosed with HIV. However, progress is still needed to make HIV screening routine in healthcare settings. Increasing the rate of HIV screening is key to early detection, diagnosis, and linkage to prevention and care services.

AFP received a renewed joint \$1.5 million commitment from AHN and UPMC to support operational costs of administering the AFP project over the next five years. This funding represents a second phase of the two health systems' [initial 5-year funding commitments](#) (2016-2020). The funding from AHN and UPMC will provide backbone support to all AFP projects, including an HIV screening initiative that is project-funded by an additional \$125,000 grant from the Highmark Foundation. AFP will facilitate this two-year program aiming to normalize HIV screening in Allegheny County. As part of the program, AFP will oversee a county-wide digital marketing campaign to reduce stigma around HIV screening and direct community members to accessible HIV testing options that work for them. The AIDS Free Pittsburgh Outreach Subcommittee will collaborate with the community to shape the campaign's messaging. Additionally, AFP will award mini-grants to two or three organizations to pilot innovative HIV screening projects in healthcare and/or community-based settings.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) will continue to serve as the fiscal agent that leads, supports, and convenes AFP's collaborating groups to achieve collective goals and strategies. JHF also approved a five-year, \$250,000 grant to support operating costs of AFP's second phase.

JHF HIV/AIDS Project Director Richard Smith said, "We are very happy the Highmark Foundation, UPMC, and AHN have decided to trust the work and vision of AFP. Their commitment to the HIV community will make a lasting, sustainable impact."

“The Highmark Foundation is excited to support AFP, and to collaborate with community-based organizations, as well as state agencies to help fund this important community health awareness and referral campaign,” said Yvonne Cook, president of the Highmark Foundation. “This grant will continue the great strides made in reducing the rate of new HIV infections and will promote the importance of early detection in Allegheny County. This is a huge win for our community.”

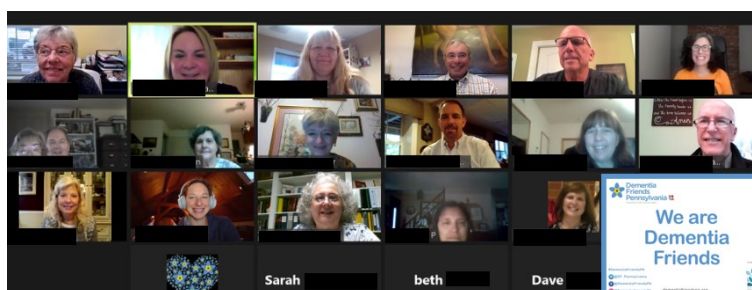
“For decades, the caregivers at Allegheny Health Network’s Positive Health Clinic have been committed to providing leading, compassionate care to those in our region who live with HIV/AIDS. With this mission in mind, we are pleased to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh which brings together our region’s most robust health care resources in order to make a significant difference in the lives of these patients and the health of our community,” said Susan Manzi, MD, MPH, Chair, AHN Medicine Institute.

“Significant progress toward ending the HIV epidemic in our region has been achieved through this initiative,” said Steven D. Shapiro, M.D., chief medical and scientific officer, UPMC. “Our clinicians are dedicated to providing rapid access to state-of-the-art HIV care for those newly diagnosed with HIV. We’ve successfully suppressed the virus in over 90 percent of our patients, keeping them healthy and greatly reducing the chance of them transmitting HIV to others. We look forward to eliminating new AIDS diagnoses and reducing the incidence of HIV even further through AIDS Free Pittsburgh.”

## Dementia Friends Advances Activities Across Pennsylvania

Dementia Friends Pennsylvania was included in the commonwealth’s 2020-2024 State Plan on Aging, which The Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) creates every four years to provide a vision and direction for Pennsylvania's network of aging services. The plan, effective on October 1, 2020, contains five state plan goals designed to address all that the department has or will undertake to improve aging services in Pennsylvania.

This includes partnering with Dementia Friends Pennsylvania to [“spread the movement to every county in the commonwealth.”](#)



*Dementia Friends Pennsylvania enjoyed making new Friends during a virtual session hosted by Senator Mensch.*

On October 29, the Dementia Friends Pennsylvania team held an [Information Session for State Senator Bob Mensch](#) and community members of Berks, Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. Through this session, Dementia Friends made 30 new Friends. The session was led by two members of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation Senior Connections staff, Dementia Friends Pennsylvania statewide coordinators and master trainers Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L and Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, CECM.

Dementia Friends Pennsylvania also attended the [2020 Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders \(ADRD\) Forum](#) held on November 5, where their information was shared with over 250

stakeholders from across the commonwealth. This year's forum directed attention to addressing racial disparities in risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Dementia Friends will continue to work closely with the PDA to raise awareness and change the way people think, act, and talk about dementia.

JHF serves as the state coordinator and holds the sub-license for Dementia Friends Pennsylvania. An outreach of Dementia Friendly America, this initiative seeks to educate communities across the state about dementia, break down the stigma surrounding dementia, and encourage individuals to implement practical changes to best support people living with dementia and those around them to live well in their communities.

## Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society and Jewish Healthcare Foundation Hold Virtual Program on COVID-19

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was pleased to co-host the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society-Western Division's Fall 2020 program on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Titled "COVID-19 Across the Healthcare Spectrum," this was the Society's first virtual program. Over 60 attendees from many disciplines, including physicians, nurses, social workers, and nursing home administrators, joined the call for a panel discussion. The panelists explored the impact of COVID-19 on the direct care of older persons, including resource



allocation and pharmaceutical dissemination. The program also focused on discussions around the emotional impact that COVID-19 had on the workforce and how health systems were faced with ethical challenges in managing decisions for care of individuals with COVID-19.

The panel was moderated by David Nace, MD, MPH, Clinical Chief of Geriatric Medicine, Director, Long-Term Care Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh; Chief of Medical Affairs, UPMC Senior Communities. Panelists included: Eitan Dickman, MD, MMM, FACEP, FAIUM, Executive Vice Chairman and Medical Director, Department of Emergency Medicine at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY; Aaron Pickering, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Infectious Diseases at UPMC St. Margaret, and Douglas White, MD, MAS, Vice Chair and Professor of Critical Care Medicine, UPMC Endowed Chair for Ethics in Critical Care Medicine, Director, Program on Ethics and Decision Making in Critical Illness at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation also shared the trailer for their upcoming documentary, "What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-term Care" during the program. The documentary, scheduled to be released at the end of 2020, provides expert insight into the current state of long-term care and how COVID-19 exacerbated existing issues.

## Death and Dying Fellowship Applications Due Dec. 11

The Death and Dying Fellowship is now accepting applications for its 2021 session, which will be all-virtual. The Fellowship takes on a key challenge: the reality that professionals are not well prepared to deal with death, dying, and grieving families, especially during an era of COVID-19. Fellows will learn, confront, and discuss the legal, medical, social, cultural, familial, and spiritual aspects of death and dying within a multi-disciplinary group in a low-pressure environment. The sessions will include opportunities to practice conversation skills, facilitated conversations, and virtual site visits.



Applications are accepted now through December 11. Current or recent graduate students in health-related disciplines, including but not limited to: Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, Social Work, Rehabilitation, Ethics, Counseling, Health Policy, Public Health, Law, Administration, Business, Pastoral Care, and Psychology are encouraged to apply. Find the online application [here](#).

## Celebrating the Life of Dick Simon

It is with great sadness that we remember Richard “Dick” Simon, a beloved board member, who passed away peacefully on November 4, just a few months shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was the longest-serving Trustee of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and Montefiore Hospital, with more than 65 years of combined service between the two organizations. Mr. Simon was present at the creation of the Foundation after the sale of Montefiore Hospital, and over his years of service, he guided JHF as a member of its Finance and Distribution Committees as well as heading one of its Grant Assessment Teams. While on the Montefiore Board, Mr. Simon was also responsible for leading fundraising efforts to establish the Home Care program, which placed Montefiore as the second hospital in the country to do so.



Mr. Simon was well known for his leadership, generosity, and volunteer work supporting a variety of civic-minded organizations, including the [Ladies Hospital Aid Society](#) (where his late wife Nancy had been a member and leader for decades) and [Zeta Beta Tau](#), the world's first Jewish fraternity. In addition to his community work, Mr. Simon helped develop his family business, [Armstrong Kover Kwick](#), into an international leader in fabrication products for the metal processing industry. Mr. Simon's late father, Israel "I.A." Simon, played a vital role in developing the former Jewish Home for the Aged, and he inspired much of Mr. Simon's philanthropic and community work.



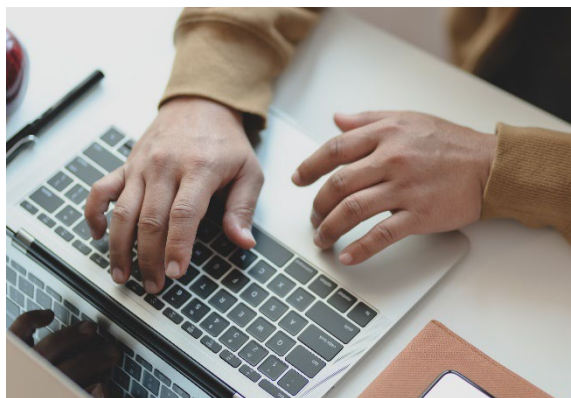
Mr. Simon will be dearly missed by the Foundation, especially by President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, who remembers him as “Uncle Dick.” In remembering Mr. Simon, Karen said, “His keen mind, kindness, and good humor carried him for over 99 years, and provided much joy to many of us at the Foundation. He missed almost no Finance or Distribution Committees for over 30 years, and is best remembered for his constant query: ‘Are you *sure* we’re giving them enough money?’”

We will miss this fine man. There will be an “empty chair” at the Foundation.

## Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative Annual Conference Highlights Key Health Issues for Pennsylvanians

The PA Health Funders Collaborative held their annual conference via Zoom November 9th to 12th, highlighting key issues facing the health of Pennsylvanians. The issues of COVID-19, racial disparities, health equity, social justice, technology, and behavioral, physical, and social health were woven into each of the sessions as cross-cutting themes.

Joanne Kenen, Executive Health Care Editor of Politico, provided the keynote on the national election and how to make progress and move forward in an age of distrust, reviewing the post-election landscape, Supreme Court cases and potential scenarios, and the brief windows that we will have to effect change.



Moving to the state level, Dave Radley, Senior Scientist, Tracking Health System Performance, of The Commonwealth Fund reviewed key findings from [Pennsylvania's 2020 scorecard](#) on state health system performance and offered recommendations for Pennsylvania. Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, Chief Executive Officer for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, presented best practices from across the nation that Pennsylvania could adopt to improve our public health infrastructure.

Discussions also centered on the workforce in perinatal and elder care, with Marianne Fray, President and CEO of the Maternity Care Coalition, who explained the role of perinatal community health workers and doulas, as well as policy barriers to advancing this workforce. Chloe Bakst, Health Policy and Research Assistant at the Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI), reviewed the state policy levers to certify and reimburse doulas and community health workers based on IMI's report, “[The Role of Doulas and Community Health Workers in Medicaid](#).” Amy York, Executive Director of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, rounded out the discussion with policies and training/career paths for nursing assistants, home health aides, and personal care attendants.

Attendees then explored opportunities for using innovative technologies, like artificial intelligence, to identify behavioral health needs in Pennsylvania, with Dale Adair, MD, Medical Director, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), PA DHS.

The final session wrapped with a discussion of new models for senior residential living. Marc Cohen, PhD, Co-director, LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston, who presented preliminary results from a study, “Making the Case for Long-Term Care Reimbursement In Pennsylvania.” Drs. Kelley and Appel from the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) discussed the needs and policy opportunities to improve services for frail seniors in Pennsylvania based on the [Rapid Response Healthcare Collaborative Program](#). David Kelley, MD, MPA is the Chief Medical Officer of PA DHS’ Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) and Office of Long-Term Living. Larry Appel, MD is the Medical Director of PA DHS’ Office of Long-Term Living.

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## Bench in Commemoration of Terry Starz

Our beloved Board member Dr. Terry Starz stopped by the bench the Jewish Healthcare Foundation commemorated in his honor, through the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. We are grateful to Dr. Starz for his public service and hope this bench serves as a commemoration for generations to come.



## JHF Votes in 2020

Whether they voted early or on Election Day, JHF employees got out the vote this year!



## Patient Safety Movement Foundation Workgroup

The Patient Safety Movement Foundation has established a workgroup to brainstorm draft legislation on the formation of a National Patient Safety Board (NPSB), which builds on their September 8 whitepaper proposing an NPSB. Read the white paper [here](#), and join the workgroup [here](#).



WHITE PAPER

**National Patient  
Safety Board**