



May 2021 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

Contents

Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Technology Council Launch “High Tech + High Touch Health Care” Series	2
May 23 Declared Teen Mental Health Awareness Day in Pennsylvania and City of Pittsburgh.....	3
JHF Convenes Health Leaders for National Patient Safety Board Briefings.....	5
JHF Webinar Supports State Long-Term Care COVID-19 Vaccination Plan	6
Karen Feinstein Publishes WIC Op-Ed in Pittsburgh Business Times	7
Statement on Equity Work for American Board of Internal Medicine	7
Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative Supports Jewish Community Center Overnight Camp Reopening	8
Dr. Ken Ho Leverages Insights from Innovative HIV/AIDS Work to Help Examine Disparities and Advance Community Health Throughout Pandemic	8
From the Vault: Looking Back on JHF’s Patient Safety Writings	10
Manhattan Film Festival Selects JHF COVID-19 Documentary.....	10

Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Technology Council Launch “High Tech + High Touch Health Care” Series

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is partnering with the [Pittsburgh Technology Council](#) to produce a new webinar series and companion podcast, "High Tech + High Touch Health Care." The webinar sessions highlight national and local leaders who explore the frontiers of health innovation, and the companion podcast will home in on topics related to JHF's work with featured JHF staff and Board members. The program builds on JHF's work to highlight how technology can enable high touch care through the [Liftoff PGH Regional Agenda](#)'s six key objectives for health innovation.



The webinar series includes special episodes of the Pittsburgh Tech Council's daily [Business As Usual](#) (12:00-12:30PM EST) show, pairing national experts with Pittsburgh innovators to explore how our region can continue to grow as a hub for health innovation and health tech entrepreneurship. These co-hosted webinars will follow the Pittsburgh Tech Council's existing Business as Usual session format with live interactive discussion, featuring Pittsburgh Technology Council President & CEO Audrey Russo in conversation with maternity and primary care experts.

The first webinar series episodes launched in May. New Perspectives on “Successful Maternity” on May 10 presented a conversation with Ellen Beckjord, PhD, MPH, who oversees population health for UPMC Health Plan and its 3.5 million members. Dr. Beckjord is an Adjunct Professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy where she teaches Population Health Management. The Revolutionizing Patient Care episode on May 18 featured Nicole Lambert, MS, President of Myriad Genetic Laboratories to discuss how Myriad is revolutionizing patient care through the discovery, development and marketing of transformative molecular diagnostic tests that address pressing clinical needs across multiple medical specialties. The third episode on May 26 welcomed Prith Banerjee, Chief Technology Officer at ANSYS and Charles Fisher, Founder and CEO of Unlearn.AI to discuss how digital twins, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are making clinical trials faster, more accurate and more cost-efficient. Upcoming sessions will focus on automated patient safety, innovation in aging, and many other topics.

“We are excited to partner with JHF on this new series as a way to highlight the future of health care to the business community of Pittsburgh,” said Russo. “With a few episodes completed, I am looking forward to more, particularly for the new podcast and the conversations it will create.”

Learn more, sign up for newsletter updates, and view episode recordings [here](#).

May 23 Declared Teen Mental Health Awareness Day in Pennsylvania and City of Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh City Council and Governor Tom Wolf officially declared May 23, 2021 as Teen Mental Health Awareness Day in the City of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania, via a proclamation written by a team of high school students from the [PA Youth Advocacy Network](#). Lt. Governor John Fetterman and City of Pittsburgh Councilperson Erika Strassburger presented the youth with the proclamations during an in-person celebration at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh on May 23.



From left: Bina Guo (senior, Pittsburgh CAPA), Lt. Governor John Fetterman, Connor Dalgaard (junior, West Allegheny High School), Abby Rickin-Marks (senior, Fox Chapel High School), Pittsburgh City Councilperson Erika Strassburger

Since 2018, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation has convened the PA Youth Advocacy Network, comprised of representatives from 26 high schools and over 10 community partners, to mobilize youth voice and effectively advocate for change around teen mental health. JHF is also committed to teen mental health work through [grants awarded](#) in fall 2020 to 14 local organizations to support teen mental health programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, totaling nearly \$400,000. This includes, in part, seed funding to create UpStreet Pittsburgh, a currently virtual adolescent behavioral health initiative in the process of becoming a walk-in storefront in Squirrel Hill. JHF convenes a Teen Mental Health Collaborative of these grantees to share information and expertise and forge new collaborations from a grassroots perspective.



A crowd gathered outside the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh for the Teen Mental Health Awareness Day event.

JHF Adolescent Behavioral Health team members Deborah Murdoch, Carol Frazer, and Sarah Pesi guided the students as they drafted the proclamations, facilitated the proclamations' submission, and organized the May 23 in-person event for the youth, parents, PA Youth Advocacy Network member organizations, JHF Board members and staff.

Lt. Governor Fetterman said, "It is such an important topic...it's not something we talked

about when I was a teenager... thank you for bringing attention to this and for reminding us all that this is a critical area.”

This proclamation comes at a crucial time, given that almost half of parents surveyed said their teen experienced a new or worsening mental health condition since the start of the pandemic, reports the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital National Poll on Children’s Health at Michigan Medicine. Additionally, we know that prior to the pandemic, 22.9% of children in the U.S. had a psychiatric disorder, with half of all psychiatric illnesses occurring before the age of 14 and 75% by the age of 24.



Youth advocate and West Allegheny High School student Connor Dalgaard said, “It’s crucial to begin this change at the local level...Creating a Teen Mental Health Day in Pittsburgh and in the state of Pennsylvania provides the building block needed to solve the mental health crisis at its roots, by giving youth the ability to build on the headway of adults today.”

The participating students who wrote the proclamation are representatives of West Allegheny High School, Fox Chapel High School, Taylor Alderdice High School, and a recent alumna of Winchester Thurston/current Barnard College student. The students’ work on the city and Pennsylvania proclamations inspired action in Beaver County, where the Beaver County Commissioner also acknowledged the day with a celebration at the courthouse Thursday, May 27th led by the Beaver County Youth Ambassador Program.

The Beaver County Youth Ambassador Program met at an event to recognize teen mental health.

“Teens are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the leaders of today... I’m so proud of the work that

the youth are doing today,” said Councilperson Strassburger.

Watch a video of the proclamation presentation [here](#) and a video of messages from community and government leaders, including Governor Tom Wolf and Pittsburgh City Councilperson Erika Strassburger [here](#).

Over the summer, the PA Youth Advocacy Network will hold listening sessions to gather youth perspectives on current teen mental health topics. To learn more and join the Network calls, visit payoutadvocacy.org.

WPXI covered the story here: [Pittsburgh leaders declare May 23 as Teen Mental Health Awareness Day](#)

Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle: [Fox Chapel student raises awareness of teen mental health issues](#)

Read more in the JCC blog here: [Teens Bring About the First Teen Mental Health Awareness Day](#)

JHF Convenes Health Leaders for National Patient Safety Board Briefings

In May, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) convened over 30 leaders across the United States for two updates on its work to advance a federal patient safety agency. Many of the people attending the May 18 and 27 briefings had attended early group or individual conversations on the proposal. Much work has gone on over the last few months and it seemed appropriate to engage some key stakeholders at this point to understand and perhaps advance the policy work. Attendees had previously joined the SWERVE rapid-fire sessions and virtual summits that JHF, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, and the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation (NEHI) facilitated in 2020 to identify a new solution to the persistent problem of medical harm. SWERVE participants chose the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) option over others.



Leaders from across the country met for two briefings

Wendy Everett, ScD, Senior Advisor of NEHI opened the meeting with the background behind the patient safety initiative and announced the name change from an “authority” to a “board.”

Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and CEO of JHF reviewed the patient safety ecosystem in the United States, explaining that a federal agency could support and extend the work of other patient safety agencies across the country, much like the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) does for the transportation industry.

Robert Sumwalt, Chairman of the NTSB shared a brief summary of the NTSB’s work and described how the NTSB is an accident investigation agency that makes recommendations to strengthen the system of the transportation industry.

David Classen, MD, MS, Professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine presented on autonomous data collection systems to identify and anticipate adverse events and shared that

current electronic health record technologies present us with the tools today to take immediate action on improving patient safety.

James Gelfand, JD, Senior Vice President, Health Policy at ERIC spoke about the opportunity for the leaders to join the NPSB Policy and Advocacy Coalition. The national Coalition includes executive-level representatives from hospitals and health systems, health policy and quality improvement institutes, regional and national associations and networks, schools of health education, foundations, and science and technology leaders from across the country. The Coalition formed to build the NPSB's case and presence, engage other allies, leverage connections with policymakers, and advance draft legislation to create the NPSB. Gelfand reported that the Coalition is reaching general consensus on various aspects of a federal patient safety agency, as Coalition members help shape a new entity. The Coalition offers the opportunity to inform many key stakeholders as well as federal legislators and staff of agencies, and Gelfand reported that many contacts view the concept of the agency favorably. The Coalition's immediate aim is to secure co-sponsors and introduce legislation in the coming months.

JHF Webinar Supports State Long-Term Care COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

On May 4, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) offered the latest in a series of educational COVID-19 vaccine webinars to hundreds of long-term care facilities statewide, as the PA Department of Health operationalizes a [new plan](#) to ensure long-term care facilities receive COVID-19 vaccines on an ongoing basis through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. The JHF webinar explained and promoted the new partnership, which is available to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and it focused on the importance of assuring maximum rates of vaccination among staff and residents. Featured speakers included Lawrence Appel, MD, SFHM, Medical Director, Office of Long-term Living, Debbie Smith, Strategy & Planning Consultant/Long-Term Care Task Force, COVID-19 Response, PADOH, and Nancy Zions, MBA, JHF COO and Chief Program Officer moderated.



The webinar highlighted a best practice case study presented by Cindy Rouvre, Director of Risk/Compliance, Garden Spot Communities in Lancaster County. The speakers answered logistical questions while stressing the importance of overcoming hesitancy among long-term care workers who may still represent a risk to spreading the virus if they remain unvaccinated.

This webinar builds on months of collaboration between JHF and the PA Departments of Health and Human Services to reduce vaccine hesitancy among long-term care facility staff as part of [JHF's involvement](#) in the [Regional Congregate Care Assistance Teams](#) (RCAT) program. JHF, the PA Health Funders Collaborative and others around the country have been advocating for an

ongoing program to provide access to vaccines for both workers and seniors. The original pharmacy partnership was not designed with a long-term term strategy in mind, despite high levels of skilled nursing facility resident and staff turnover creating a need for continued vaccination offerings in this setting. Once the new plan was introduced by CMS in late April, JHF moved quickly to partner with the PA Departments of Health and Human Services to promote the opportunity.

Karen Feinstein Publishes WIC Op-Ed in Pittsburgh Business Times

Why should the business community care if the Pennsylvania Special Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in our county falters under a state makeover? Because our businesses want and need employees to return to work. New mothers and families who are struggling financially, emotionally, or socially will not be fully present in the workplace. Jewish Healthcare Foundation President & CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein makes the case in the Pittsburgh Business Times and calls attention to immediate opportunities to protect and expand Pennsylvania's WIC assistance program. Read more [here](#).



Statement on Equity Work for American Board of Internal Medicine

In May, Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) President & CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein attended the launch of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM)'s [Building Trust](#) initiative. The initiative seeks to highlight efforts within healthcare organizations to address distrust, structural racism, and disparities, and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and operating arm Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) were invited to share the experience of working and building trust with grassroots organizations locally and statewide on maternal and infant health equity. This work is especially relevant to Allegheny County, where Black women experience maternal mortality rates three times those of white women. Read JHF and WHAMglobal's blog post on our equity work [here](#).



Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative Supports Jewish Community Center Overnight Camp Reopening

The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) has provided coaching support to the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh (JCC) as they plan to reopen their Emma Kaufmann overnight camp in Morgantown, WV this summer. PRHI Manager, Lean Healthcare Strategy and Implementation Jennifer Condel met with Camp Director, Aaron Cantor, Assistant Director, Brooks Weaver, and Chief Program Officer, Jason Kunzman, to review the programming structure and playbook used to communicate expectations and safety protocols to parents, and operational guidelines for JCC overnight camp staff. Parents were reported to have responded positively to the playbook, and as of May, the overnight camp registration grew by 200+ registrations, exceed 2019's registration numbers, and now has a waiting list of several dozen campers.



Dr. Ken Ho Leverages Insights from Innovative HIV/AIDS Work to Help Examine Disparities and Advance Community Health Throughout Pandemic

Why HIV experts turned into some of the best COVID-19 leaders

When the threat of COVID-19 descended, University of Pittsburgh infectious disease expert Ken Ho, MD, MPH was well-primed to step up to the challenge. For 14 years, Dr. Ho has investigated biomedical strategies for HIV prevention, from microbicides to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (known as PrEP, daily medication to treat and prevent the spread of HIV), and in 2013 he established the UPMC PrEP clinic. Among the first in the region to publicly support PrEP along with telehealth to provide the medication, Dr. Ho helped to develop the AIDS Free Pittsburgh PrEP toolkit, which has become a core teaching tool for many providers in the region. His insights, presentations, and advice on improving services for clients has been vital to the success of AIDS Free Pittsburgh and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's (JHF) HIV/AIDS work over the past seven years. Simply, he wants to stop (and cure) HIV – and has played a major role in accomplishing this goal for Pittsburgh and beyond. But when COVID-19 hit, Dr. Ho leveraged his expertise to address the world's newest infectious disease.



Dr. Ken Ho



In his free time, Dr. Ho enjoys figure skating.

Dr. Ho has led Pittsburgh's effort in the multicenter [COMPASS Study](#) examining how COVID-19 impacts different communities across the U.S. The study aims to shed light on the disparities that we already know already exist within our health system, giving us important data to address gaps and improve our response to the pandemic. With his work in HIV/AIDS, and his sensitivity to the inequities of the healthcare system and its history of exploitation in certain groups, Dr. Ho guides on-the-ground research to learn about COVID-19's impact on Pittsburgh residents. "I think people need to be able to trust the person on the other end," noted Dr. Ho. "That counts for a lot."

Dr. Ho has worked as one of the investigators on ACTG-5401 (ACTIV-2), a multicenter clinical trial of multiple monoclonal antibody treatments and other new therapies for COVID-19. The local study is led by Dr. Madhu Choudary.

Dr. Ho has also worked as an investigator for the AstraZeneca vaccine trial. This is just one of three Pittsburgh vaccine trials, which drew from the strength of the city's HIV researchers, who bring a valuable skillset to investigate a new virus. "The COVID-19

vaccine trials involved a lot of HIV clinical trials groups because we're very used to clinical protocols and what is needed for this work," said Dr. Ho.

As sexually transmitted infections persist, Dr. Ho still makes time for his ongoing HIV research. He is excited that just as his HIV work prepared him for COVID-19 research, the reverse is also true. The University of Pittsburgh was recently selected to be a HIV vaccine trial network site, and Dr. Ho will soon begin additional research on HIV vaccines.

In his free time, Dr. Ho is a competitive figure skater. He has competed annually at the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships from 2011 to 2019 and has won medals. He started skating in college as part of a physical education requirement and was quickly hooked. He now skates on behalf of the Pittsburgh Figure Skating Club, and his coach is Elena Valova, an Olympic gold medalist from 1984. His favorite move is called the "hydroblade," and his favorite program is his 2019 competitive program skated to Donna Summer's "Last Dance."

During this challenging time, Dr. Ho has been encouraged by the way his research colleagues and the community have rallied together, constantly looking for opportunities to leverage the power of collaboration. JHF cannot give enough thanks for Dr. Ho's contributions and his commitment to the health of our region.

From the Vault: Looking Back on JHF's Patient Safety Writings

With the Full Court Press initiative, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has ramped up a renewed push for federal action on patient safety. Both the Foundation and its operating arm the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative have a long history in the patient safety space. We rediscovered a few articles “from the vault” of patient safety content that demonstrate the consistency of need on the federal level. The proposals JHF and PRHI were pushing over ten years ago are eerily similar to the push for an NPSB that is currently underway:

Read JHF President & CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein's 2010 op-ed for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette [here](#).

Read Feinstein's 2009 letter to the editor for the New York Times [here](#).



Manhattan Film Festival Selects JHF COVID-19 Documentary

The short, JHF-produced documentary, What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care, was selected for the 2021 [Manhattan Film Festival](#). The 20-minute documentary explores the causes behind the COVID-19 crisis in long-term care facilities across the United States. JHF released the documentary in 2020, and it has been screened by WQED and several Pittsburgh and nationwide senior health and aging organizations. View the documentary's screening in the festival [here](#).

