



September 2022 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

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JHF's Senior Work Featured in *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle* Op-Ed

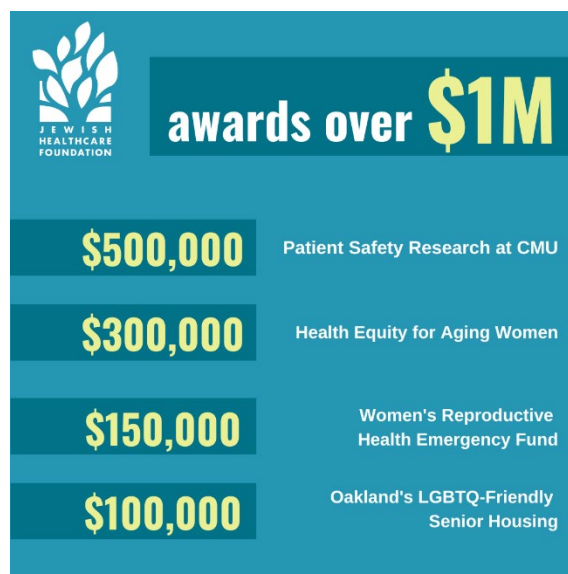
The Jewish Healthcare Foundation has maintained a vigorous aging agenda since its inception more than 30 years ago. This work was recently highlighted in an op-ed published in the *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*. [“Seniors Matter to Us...Now More Than Ever,”](#) written by Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, showcased the Foundation’s past, present, and future commitment to supporting the aging population through all stages of life.



JHF Approves over \$1M in Grants, Including Patient Safety Research at Carnegie Mellon; Women’s Reproductive Health Emergency Grant Fund; and Oakland’s LGBTQ-Friendly Senior Housing Community

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Board approved over \$1M in grants on September 13, including funds to develop the Initiative for Patient Safety Research at Carnegie Mellon University; to establish the Women’s Reproductive Health Emergency Grant Fund; to develop a campaign to advance health equity for aging women; and to support for a service coordinator for the new LGBTQ-friendly senior housing community under development in Oakland.

During the JHF Board meeting, the Board also welcomed Sydney Etheredge, MPH, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Western PA to engage in a discussion on women’s reproductive health in the post-Roe era. President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD provided updates on the three ongoing patient safety initiatives at JHF and the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, and she made a presentation on a new women’s health agenda for the Foundation, “Women’s Health Equity as They Age,” that is supported by the new grant funding.



Developing an Initiative for Patient Safety Research at Carnegie Mellon University

JHF approved a \$500,000 two-year grant to Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to establish an Initiative for Patient Safety Research (IPSR) to address the persistent problem of medical errors, the third leading cause of death in the U.S.

IPSR will build on years of work at JHF and the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative to develop effective solutions for medical errors. Its research will be the next step to establish Pittsburgh as a hub for developing autonomous technologies to anticipate medical errors and prevent major sources of harm in health care before they occur.

The work will deploy CMU's multidisciplinary talent in centers of inquiry and discovery across the university to create a benchmark data set. That data will be used to generate hypotheses and proof-of-concept methods to detect and prevent medication errors using autonomous patient safety solutions.

The CMU team will also foster and maintain highly collaborative partnerships among CMU, JHF, data partners, and researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and beyond where healthcare expertise would strengthen the work.

IPSR will initially focus on medication errors, which account for 41 percent of medical errors. The goal is to create a research program and data set that has the potential to examine and address other types of medical errors, including sepsis, healthcare-associated infections, and diagnostic errors.

Establishing the Women's Reproductive Health Emergency Grant Fund

JHF approved funding of up to \$150,000 to establish the JHF Women's Reproductive Health Emergency Fund to protect access to women's health care in response to the US Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson* on June 24, 2022.

This funding has been allocated to respond to the anticipated grave impact on the health of women, including an increase in pregnancy complications, denials of care, and increases in preterm births and maternal mortality, due to the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and its near 50-year right for a person to choose. In addition, many related treatment and care options, including contraception, emergency contraception, care for persons with ectopic pregnancies, and even in vitro fertilization procedures are all at risk of being limited or curtailed. The burden of this change in protections touches all women and girls, and women of color and lower socio-economic means are disproportionately affected. Additionally, healthcare providers – OB/GYNs, doulas, counselors, and pharmacists – are at increased risk of interference in how they operate their practices and how they support the decisions of their patients/clients. Increases to their physical safety have also been on the rise.

The grant's efforts will focus on the greatest needs identified that save lives; reduce waiting times for services; support reproductive health workers; protect women seeking services and their providers; maintain or increase access in the short-term and demonstrate immediate impact.

The grant also supports advocacy efforts to secure long-term solutions to improved health outcomes and rights preservation in addition to support for the development of data collection mechanisms to track changes in service delivery, outcomes, and resource use and needs.

Focusing the Foundation's Campaign on Health Equity for Aging Women

Women's health issues in the U.S. get shortchanged or minimally addressed at any age, but what hasn't been addressed sufficiently are the extraordinary biases and discrimination in our health system as women age. In response, JHF approved a two-year grant of up to \$300,000 to develop a strategic workplan and initial set of activities to address the clinical, societal, policy, and financial inequities older women experience in health care.

During the 30-plus years since its founding, JHF has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to women's health and aging. Building on JHF's history of women's health leadership and its tradition of activism and convening, staff have proposed the Foundation's next women's health investment address another invisible epidemic: health inequities for women as they age.

JHF's network of health and aging partners from philanthropy, health care and public health, the public sector and academic will help document the extent of the problem, build a coalition of local organizations, and provide a strategic framework for groups to work together and coordinate efforts. Its staff will research the current state and identify best practice models for reducing women's health inequity in the US and internationally.

Supporting a Service Coordinator for Oakland's New LGBTQ-Friendly Senior Housing Community

JHF has awarded long-time partner Presbyterian SeniorCare Network (PSCN) a three-year grant totaling \$100,000 to support a service coordinator at Oakland Pride, Pittsburgh's first LGBTQ-Friendly Senior Housing Community.

Over the past several years, JHF has joined with PSCN, UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh, the Persad Center, and other key stakeholders in planning sessions for the first LGBTQ-friendly senior housing community in Western Pennsylvania and one of the first in the nation. A site has been secured in Oakland to develop an approximately 52-unit, affordable apartment community with all units being fully accessible and adaptable with all units dedicated to low- and moderate-income seniors desiring to live in an affordable LGBTQ+ friendly community.

Funding will support on-site services including wellness programming, service coordination, concierge services, and other activities, in addition to partially funding a service coordinator for clients, dedicated to helping residents remain independent for as long as possible while connecting them with community services.

Renewal of Annual Support to the Allegheny Conference on Community Development

JHF renewed its annual support of \$68,000 to the Allegheny Conference on Community Development (ACCD) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to support its 2020-2030 *Next is Now: A 10-Year Vision of Vitality for the Pittsburgh Region*.

ACCD has pursued opportunities to establish our region's niche as a center for R&D in autonomous solutions focused on safety solutions (including safety technology). This is a vision shared by JHF and in keeping with the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's Full Court Press Team for Patient Safety's vision and strategies to advance technology-enabled solutions to prevent medical errors amid the healthcare workforce crisis, including the National Patient Safety Technology Challenge and the Regional Autonomous Patient Safety initiative (RAPS).

Read more about JHF's recent grants in the [Pittsburgh Business Times](#) and the [Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle](#).

JHF Establishes Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania Initiative

On September 21, World Alzheimer's Day, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) announced the establishment of Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania, a new initiative aimed at supporting Pennsylvanians living with dementia. Pennsylvania has joined the growing coalition of dementia-friendly communities across the U.S. by joining the [Dementia Friendly America](#) network.

Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania is a collaborative effort with [Dementia Friends Pennsylvania](#), a program of JHF and eight existing dementia-friendly Pennsylvania communities supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. This initiative works to ensure communities across the country are equipped to support people living with dementia and their care providers.



"As Pennsylvania's older adult population continues to grow, we are seeing the incidence of lives impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias also increase. Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania will help raise awareness and increase understanding in our communities so people affected by the disease can be supported and enabled to live their best quality of life," said Secretary of Aging Robert Torres. "The Department of Aging is proud to partner in this effort to create positive environments and outcomes for older adults living with dementia."

More than 400,000 people in Pennsylvania are living with dementia. For every person diagnosed with dementia, there are at least 3–4 people, including family, friends, and colleagues, whose lives are profoundly affected.

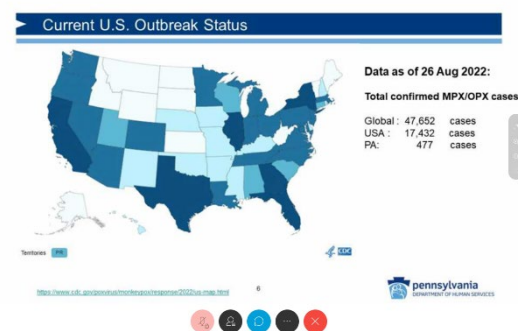
Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania will focus on encouraging the creation of dementia-friendly communities across the Commonwealth. A dementia-friendly community is one that is informed,

safe, and respectful of people living with dementia and their families. Communities take action by leveraging tailored resources for businesses, faith communities, healthcare communities, first responders, legal and financial services, libraries, and multiple other community sectors. Additional goals include development of a website with statewide resources designed for people living with dementia, care partners, and professionals; raising awareness about dementia and transforming attitudes; and promoting meaningful participation in community life.

To learn more about Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania or become involved in the initiative, please email info@dementiafriendlypa.org or learn more on the initiative's [Facebook page](#).

JHF, DOH & DOHS Present “Monkeypox: What You Need to Know” Webinar to 680 Participants

On August 4, 2022, the Biden administration declared monkeypox a public health emergency. Since then, every state and Washington, D.C. has recorded cases of the virus. As of Sept. 20, 2022, the [CDC reported](#) 24,203 total confirmed monkeypox cases in the United States. Of those cases, 3 percent, or 708 total, were reported in Pennsylvania.



To raise awareness of the epidemic, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Service approached the Jewish Healthcare Foundation’s Aging Team, which operates the State’s Learning Network, who coordinated just-in-time learning for all long-term care and community programs across Commonwealth. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and Pennsylvania Department of Health presented “Monkeypox: What You Need to Know” on Aug. 31 to a virtual audience of 680 participants.

The webinar “Monkeypox: What You Need to Know” was presented on Aug. 31 to a virtual audience of 680 participants to answer questions about monkeypox and provide information about the status of monkeypox globally, nationally and across Pennsylvania; discuss the symptoms and prevention of monkeypox; courses of action if a person or close contact contracts the disease; best practices in congregate care facilities; and current treatment and prophylaxis options and how they are reimbursed.

JHF Chief Operating Officer and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zions moderated the discussion among a panel of experts which included: Lawrence D. Appel, MD, SFHM, medical director of the Office of Long-Term Living at PA DHS; David Kelley, MD, MPA, chief medical officer for PA DHS Office of Medical Assistance Programs; and DOH Chief of Clinical Services Arlene Seid, MD, MPH, FACPM, CMQ; and Jen Wallace, public health physician at PA DOH.

A recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

Karen Wolk Feinstein Gives Morning Keynote at Purchaser Business Group on Health Summit

On September 15, Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, gave a keynote address to the Purchaser Business Group on Health, a nonprofit representing one of the nation's most influential coalitions of private and public healthcare purchasers, during the second day of their Primary Care Payment Reform Implementation Summit in Chicago. Attendees included high-level representatives from dozens of prominent employers including Boeing, Chevron, eBay, Intel, Microsoft, and Walmart, and speakers during the two-day summit consistently conveyed a sense of urgency and the need to join forces to make systemic improvements to the healthcare system.



Dr. Karen Feinstein presents to the Summit audience in Chicago.



Former Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement colleagues reconvene at the Purchaser Business Group on Health Summit.

Dr. Feinstein's presentation focused on the role businesses and payers can play in creating an improved health system of the future that emphasizes new models of care in the community and is safer for all. In addition to recommending models that better leverage community health workers, community paramedics, community safety technology, mobile units, and integrated care, Dr. Feinstein emphasized the need for a National Patient Safety Board to ensure safety is improved and opportunities for the business community to bargain for safety as rigorously as reduced premiums.

Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation Board Accepts Invite to Join the National Patient Safety Board Coalition

On September 6, Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, was invited by the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) [Board of Directors](#) to discuss opportunities to meaningfully engage patients and patient advocates in APSF's work.

Dr. Feinstein introduced the APSF Board of Directors to the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) concept as a way to advance APSF's core mission of eliminating harm in health care and invited APSF to



join the growing NPSB Advocacy Coalition. Immediately following Dr. Feinstein's presentation, the Board voted unanimously to support the effort to establish an NPSB.

The board meeting was held the day before the APSF Stoelting Conference in Nashville, where speakers addressed crucial patient safety issues in office-based and non–operating room anesthesia. The need for coordination across care settings and for incorporating technology solutions was discussed throughout the conference, highlighting clear themes and connections with the aims of the NPSB.

[APSF](#) was the first independent multidisciplinary organization created with the express purpose of avoiding clinical errors, especially those related to human error. Due to APSF's leadership, the specialty of anesthesiology is widely recognized as the pioneering leader in patient safety efforts. APSF's long history of innovation and engagement with technology solutions has served as an inspiration to the NPSB Advocacy Coalition.

Karen Wolk Feinstein Provides Testimony to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology in Support of a National Patient Safety Board

Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein provided testimony September 21 to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) on the foundation's support for the establishment of a National Patient Safety Board (NPSB).



Francis Collins responds to Karen Feinstein's comments during PCAST meeting on September 21.

PCAST is the sole body of advisors from outside of the federal government appointed by President Biden and charged with making science, technology, and innovation policy recommendations to the White House, cabinet departments, and other federal agencies. PCAST co-chairs are Frances Arnold, PhD; Francis Collins, MD, PhD; and Maria Zuber, PhD.

The virtual meeting provided a forum to discuss opportunities to improve patient safety, advance the U.S. innovation ecosystem, and create innovation hubs through implementation of the CHIPS & Science Act.

During the Public Comment segment, Dr. Feinstein called for the establishment of an NPSB to identify and anticipate major sources of harm and to recommend solutions, including autonomous technologies, to prevent errors before they can occur. She noted that the current responsibility for patient safety in the U.S. is fragmented, with many federal agencies having some role but none having full oversight. Dr. Feinstein also seized the opportunity to tout the Pittsburgh region as a

hub for patient safety technology—a concept that was referenced multiple times during the meeting.

In early 2021, a growing coalition of leading healthcare organizations and experts began to advance and call for the creation of an NPSB, with over 70 coalition members currently on board with the NPSB.

Dr. Collins noted that Dr. Feinstein’s recommendation for an NPSB “comes at an excellent time” as the Patient Safety Working Group is actively discussing recommendations for the President to improve safety in health care.

A recording of the White House Council of Advisors on Science and Technology is [available here](#).

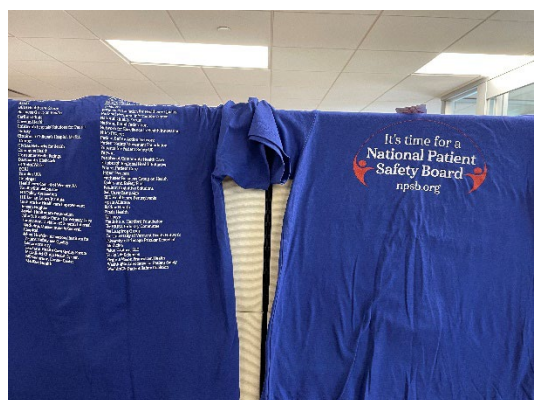
March for Patient Safety Features National Patient Safety Board

On September 17, designated as World Patient Safety Day by the World Health Organization, advocates for greater safety in health care gathered in Washington, DC, to take part in the annual March for Patient Safety. [Patients for Patient Safety US](#) organized this year’s march in partnership with the [Patient Safety Movement Foundation](#), the [National Patient Safety Board Advocacy Coalition](#), [The Leapfrog Group](#), and the [MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety](#).

Representatives from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Greater National Advocates, National Quality Forum, and Ariadne Labs also participated in the event.



Patient safety advocates out front of the U.S. Capitol on September 17.



In its fourth year, the March drew 30 participants from across the U.S., all with the common goal of calling attention to the persistent problem of medical error and remembering those who have been harmed by health care. After gathering at Freedom Plaza, marchers moved down Pennsylvania Avenue approximately one mile toward the U.S. Capitol. The group stopped at Union Square, near the Capitol reflecting pool, where marchers planted orange flags (the official color of World Patient Safety Day) with the names of loved ones, friends, and colleagues who have lost their lives or suffered harm because of medical errors. After

a moment of silence, marchers spoke the names of individuals they wanted to memorialize. Many participants wore blue t-shirts carrying the message, “It’s Time for a National Patient Safety Board,” and listing members of the National Patient Safety Board Advocacy Coalition.

Patients for Patient Safety US [live-streamed portions of the event on Facebook](#).

PRHI Sponsors Award Presented at MedHacks as Part of the Patient Safety Technology Challenge

The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's (PRHI) [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#) celebrated the completion of the first of many patient safety awards at competitions across the country. As part of the Challenge, PRHI sponsored the “Big Idea: Best Technology-Enabled Patient Safety Solutions” track at [MedHacks](#).

Held September 9th through 11th at Forward U in Baltimore, MD, MedHacks is the nation's premier medical hackathon at Johns Hopkins University – and one of the largest student-run hackathons. Participants come from a variety of different fields, ranging from undergraduate and graduate students to software engineers and medical professionals.



Announcement of the Patient Safety Technology Challenge winners at MedHacks in Baltimore.

The PRHI-sponsored track was a call to solve the problem of medical error by envisioning the best technology-enabled patient safety solution with the potential to avert patient harm in procedural and surgical errors, diagnostic safety, and errors in routine patient care.

Teams were challenged to present big ideas and consider how they may automate existing technologies to improve patient safety by easing the burden on healthcare workers experiencing burnout and turning over at high rates.

Hackers were given 36 hours to research, code, prototype, and present their work to judges [Jonathan Sullivan](#), vice president of product, National Quality Forum, and [Michael McShea](#), MS, MBA, group chief scientist at Health and Human-Machine Systems, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab.

The winning concept was the [Wireless Fall Alert System](#), a wearable fall detection device which alerts emergency contacts through text message when a patient falls. Data collected from the device would be used to prevent future falls based on patterns. As a next step, the team plans to refine their algorithm using machine learning and working on decreasing the size of the chip in their wearable device.

The runner up concept was [PneuComp](#), which targeted the challenge of patient non-compliance with use of Intermittent Pneumatic Compression device for Venous Thromboembolism Prevention (VTE). The group proposed a comfortable and inexpensive inter-process communication (IPC) device that gives the user autonomy with temperature controls and with Bluetooth Low Energy so medical professionals can analyze the data. The team plans to engage clinicians for feedback to further develop their product with end-users.

The third-place concept, [Memory Meds](#), tackled the challenge to patient safety posed when it is unclear what medications a patient is taking. Their app prototype was designed to empower patients to easily document and keep track of their prescriptions to relay that information in healthcare settings.

The two other title tracks at the event were the “Health and Data Science Innovation Track” sponsored by Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory and “Innovations in Reducing Human Errors and Improving Patient Safety in Hospital Settings” sponsored by John Hopkins School of Nursing’s Center for Immersive Learning and Digital Innovation. PRHI was pleased to see the School of Nursing focus on medication errors and infections – two important categories of harm that were worthy of hacking.

Salk Fellowship Focuses on Equipping Health Activists with State-Level Advocacy Skills

During a fall election cycle that has Pennsylvania in the national spotlight for its tight political races with major implications on key healthcare issues, the Salk Health Activist Fellowship is focused on equipping healthcare activists with effective skills to advocate at the state level.

The annual fellowship kicked off on September 22 with Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, outlining JHF’s approach to activist philanthropy, critical insights from her many years of successful advocacy, and introducing the accomplished fellowship cohort to one another.



Karen Feinstein presents to Salk fellows in the JHF offices on September 22.

As is hallmark to all JHF’s Feinstein Fellowships, the Salk Health Activist Fellowship features an interdisciplinary mix of 35 participants representing 12 different disciplines and seven different universities. The cohort includes 14 medical students at the University of Pittsburgh, the largest concentration of medical students in the Salk Fellowship’s 18-year history.

At the second session on September 29, fellows had the opportunity to learn about HIV criminalization and the current state of advocacy on the issue here in Pennsylvania.

Jon W. Davidson, senior staff attorney on the LGBTQ & HIV Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, discussed the importance of addressing stigmatizing language; the intersection between health care, human rights, and policymaking; and considerations for beginning an advocacy campaign. Fellows were also introduced to an Advocacy Action Plan that will be used to guide the strategies they will assemble in interdisciplinary groups to advocate for a healthcare policy issue.

Throughout this fall, the fellows will build a strategy for effective advocacy at the state level by collaborating in small groups with guidance from JHF staff. Through conversations with leaders from the Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Children First, Women's Law Project, TheCaseMade, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, and elected representatives and government officials, fellows will gain a deeper understanding of how to effectively communicate their concerns and policy priorities.

The Salk Fellowship will conclude with a presentation of their various strategies at the last session on November 17.

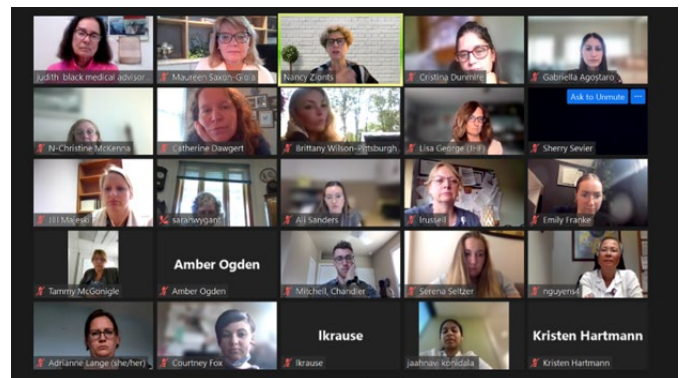
New Bonus Podcast Episode Sheds Light on the Twin Crises Facing Health Care

Join four of our nation's pioneer leaders in healthcare safety research and policy for a conversation on the twin crises of medical error and health worker burnout. Dr. Helen Burstin, chief executive officer at the Council of Medical Specialty Societies; Dr. Carolyn Clancy, assistant undersecretary for health for Discovery, Education & Affiliate Networks at the Department of Veterans Affairs; Nancy Foster, vice president of quality & safety policy development at the American Hospital Association; and Lisa Simpson, president and CEO of AcademyHealth, join moderator and host Karen Wolk Feinstein to discuss what solutions for patient safety are possible in these uncertain and unstable times. [Listen now.](#)



New Death and Dying Series for Healthcare Professionals Launches

Death, dying, and grieving are inevitable realities of health care. Although healthcare professionals confront these issues regularly, many still do not feel equipped to communicate with patients and families about these challenging matters comfortably and appropriately. When the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) offers its annual [Death and Dying Fellowship](#) for graduate students, we also receive applications from healthcare professionals in the field who express an interest in participating because they did not have a chance to learn about having difficult conversations with patients and families. JHF is addressing this glaring need for continued education surrounding end-of-life communication by launching its [first Death and Dying Series for Healthcare Professionals](#).



On September 14, a cohort of over 20 professionals in disciplines ranging from medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, and chaplaincy, convened virtually to learn strategies to enhance their

end-of-life conversation skills. During this first session, JHF Chief Operating Officer and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, provided an overview of JHF and its long-standing commitment to a robust aging agenda, which includes end of life and palliative care. JHF Medical Advisor Judy Black, MD, MHA, provided a historical overview of end-of-life issues in the United States and presented on the benefits of advance care planning. She provided a deep dive into the [Pennsylvania Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment program](#), stressing that the POLST conversation is essential and an ongoing process; it is more than simply completing a form.

In session two, Robert Arnold, MS, chief of the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics and director of the Institute for Doctor–Patient Communication at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and chief medical officer of UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute, presented an interactive talk on how to become more skilled at talking to seriously ill patients. Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA, vice president and executive medical director of Enterprise Palliative Care Strategy and Implementation at Highmark Health, and Rene Claxton, MD, MS, associate professor of medicine and program director, Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship in the University of Pittsburgh Department of Medicine and UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute, shared their personal experiences with having conversations around serious illness and then joined participants in breakout groups to discuss CPR goals of care conversation strategies and advance care planning conversations from a primary care perspective.

The group will meet for a total of seven sessions and will feature discussions related to cultural issues at the end of life, physician aid in dying, and how to have proper end-of-life conversations guided by numerous experts from a range of care settings. The series will culminate with an opportunity for participants to practice their conversation skills through role-plays facilitated by experts in the fields of palliative and end-of-life care.

Teen Mental Health Collaborative Holds Quarterly Meeting at Center of Life

On September 9, the [Teen Mental Health Collaborative](#) held its quarterly meeting at the Center of Life as an opportunity to network and collaborate, learn about family engagement strategies to improve teen mental health and wellness, and prioritize opportunities for staff skills development in mental health and wellness.

Approximately 20 people representing eight organizations attended the in-person session. The collaborative welcomed new members J. Coley Alston, program director of the Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation, and Caitlin McNulty, founder and executive director of Brookline Teen Outreach, to its current roster of 15 partner organizations.



The collaborative shared strategies for family engagement and hear from Misty Woody, development officer at Allegheny Family Network, about their approach to family peer support for families with behavioral health needs. The group also identified regional training opportunities and expertise within the collaborative group to promote skills development in mental health and wellness among their staff in a discussion facilitated by Carol Frazer, JHF practice transformation specialist. Sarah Pesi, JHF policy associate, and Health Wilkes, policy manager for Allies for Children, provided an update on joint advocacy opportunities, following the May meeting when members met with several state and local representatives.

In 2020, JHF initiated the collaborative to facilitate opportunities for youth-serving organizations to share their approaches to providing emotional support, connection, and engagement for teens to learn from one another and to provide organizations with trainings and opportunities to share program ideas and expertise.

The collaborative is looking forward to continuing its work this school year by establishing a training schedule for partner organizations that utilizes trainings already being offered in community and new trainings in identified priority areas, working on creating a menu of services to better partner with schools around teen wellness needs, and working with organizations to advocate for policies that address teen mental health and connect advocacy efforts to PA Youth Advocacy Network teen-led efforts.

JHF Presents to Uzbek Experts in the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program

On September 12, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) was invited by [GlobalPittsburgh](#) to present to four doctors and researchers from Uzbekistan's Research Institute for Epidemiology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (RIEMID). The presentation was a part of a State Department-sponsored project "Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) - A Global Health Crisis."

The CDC is supporting RIEMID in AMR control and prevention through a five-year cooperative agreement with the group specifically visiting Pittsburgh to learn about: Preparing future leaders in AMR research and treatment; antibiotic stewardship programs; and strengthening AMR capacity in rural hospitals.



During the session, Maureen Saxon-Gioia, MS, HSA, RN, JHF Nurse Project Manager, Aging Initiatives, and Jennifer Condel, SCT(ASCP)MT, manager of Lean Healthcare Strategy and Implementation at JHF, made a presentation on the foundation's past and present work in patient safety, quality improvement, Perfecting Patient Care, and how these initiatives can lead to better outcomes and avoid overuse of antibiotics. Sara Nelis, RN, project manager for JHF's Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) and the Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City initiative, and Emily Magoc, MPH, BSN, RN, JHF quality improvement facilitator, were present to answer questions.

Karen Wolk Feinstein in *Pittsburgh Business Times* Discussing Activist Philanthropy, Reducing Medical Error

On September 16, the Pittsburgh Business Times published an interview with Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) CEO and president Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD on activist philanthropy and JHF's efforts to reduce medical errors.

In the piece, Dr. Feinstein outlines how JHF and the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative are tackling the twin crises of patient safety and healthcare workforce burnout by working to accelerate development of autonomous technology solutions – relying in-part on Pittsburgh's advanced expertise and capabilities in AI and machine learning – and working to establish a [National Patient Safety Board](#), an independent, non-punitive government agency to promote patient and worker safety.

"I believe it is a privilege that we get to work on the trickiest problems," Dr. Feinstein said of the foundation and its operating arms. "We have a voice, we have resources, we can make a difference in some big issues that maybe others don't want to take on."

Read more and watch the Executive Insights interview video [here](#).



JHF Helps Establish Aradhna Award for Leadership Honoring Oliphant's Legacy

[Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.](#) is working with a wide range of community and philanthropic organizations to develop the annual Aradhna Award for Leadership, or the Aradhna Award, in honor of former Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. (LPInc.) CEO and friend of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), [Aradhna Oliphant](#). JHF is proud to contribute funds to help establish the Award in honor of Oliphant's work here in Pittsburgh.

The Award will annually recognize a graduate of one of the corporation's core programs: Leadership Pittsburgh for established leaders; the Leadership Development Initiative for emerging leaders; or the Community Leadership Course for Veterans for post-9/11 veterans who has made a significant contribution to the Greater Pittsburgh community. Each of these awards is reflective of the leadership traits that Oliphant has shown during her 16-year tenure at LPInc., the region's premier community leadership development organization.



Under Aradhna's leadership, LPInc. has received local and national awards for governance and innovation. She has served on the boards of Chatham University, First Commonwealth Financial Corporation, Institute of Politics at University of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parking Authority, among others. She has been recognized for her innovation and leadership as a Woman of Distinction by several area civic organizations; in 2015 *Pittsburgh Magazine* recognized her as one of the 25 most influential people in the region; and in 2019 the *Pittsburgh Business Times* chose her as one of the top 100 most powerful business leaders.

Oliphant is a former president of the Pittsburgh International Women's Forum and is an active member with JHF CEO and President Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, and JHF and WHAMglobal Board President Debra Caplan, MPA. Oliphant has joined Dr. Feinstein and Caplan for IWF conferences in Australia, Spain, and Toronto.

Jonathan Weinkle Brings Healing People, Not Patients from His Book to the Classroom

Dr. Jonathan Weinkle, longtime friend of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), achieved a major goal this year with the launch of the course "Healing and Humanity" at the University of Pittsburgh and Chatham University, which turns Dr. Weinkle's 2018 book, [Healing People, Not Patients](#), into an interactive seminar in relational medicine.

The book, written with generous support from JHF, details how it is possible to operationalize the idea that good medical care must begin with regarding the patient first as



an infinitely valuable human being, not as a consumer, a diagnosis, or an appointment on the schedule.

The class challenges students to interpret religious text, engage in ethical and philosophical debate, engage with cutting edge research and individual narrative, and practice essential skills of empathetic listening and compassionate communication. Each student produces a longitudinal project focusing on the illness narrative of one person whom they will interview, culminating in a “change project” for which they will propose a single intervention that could have improved the person’s experience or health outcomes. The semester will conclude with the students sharing these projects with JHF staff.

The first student cohort is a capacity crowd of 35 students from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds planning careers in a variety of professional and scientific fields related to the health sciences, and at least one future writer.

Dr. Weinkle said several students cited personal experiences with medical professionals, both heartwarming and disappointing ones, as their motivation for taking the course, and one even named the course listing as a factor in their choosing Pitt to do their pre-med studies.

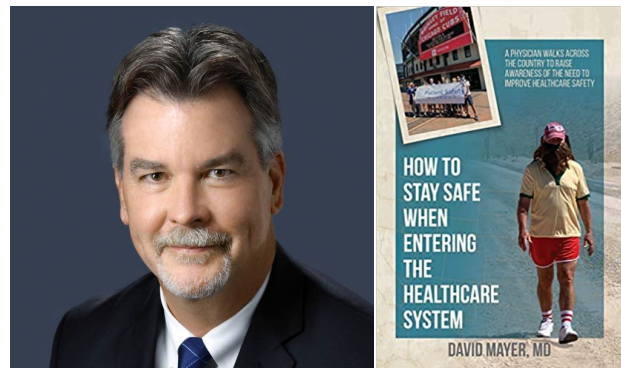
Dr. David Mayer Releases Book Chronicling His Cross-Country Trek to Raise Awareness about Medical Error

Friend of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and persistent patient safety advocate David Mayer, MD, recently [published the book](#) *How to Stay Safe When Entering the Healthcare System: A Physician Walks Across the Country to Raise Awareness of the Need to Improve Patient Safety*.

Released September 30, the book is an urgent call to action centering on Dr. Mayer’s 35-year mission to raise awareness of the 250,000 lives lost each year to preventable medical harm and the harm faced by healthcare professionals in the form of workplace violence, depression, and burnout resulting in suicide rates higher than almost every other industry.

The book’s narrative-driven timeline follows the author’s 2,452-mile walk to 37 Major League baseball parks during the height of the pandemic. It features stories of patients and healthcare workers who lost their lives due to preventable harm, as told by their family members who Dr. Mayer met along his 355-day walk.

Dr. Mayer is the executive director of the MedStar Institute for Quality & Safety and serves on the board of directors for the Patient Safety Movement Foundation, where he previously served as CEO. In addition to his leadership roles, Dr. Mayer also designs and directs systemwide activity for patient safety and reduction programs.



PA Long-Term Care Learning Network Quarterly Learning Collaborative Highlights Successful Skill-Building Strategies for Staff

One of the true highlights of the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Learning Network is seeing the “all teach all learn” philosophy at the core of the program in action.

On September 15, it was on full display as the program wrapped its third quarter of programming and hosted the second Quarterly Learning Collaborative webinar. The Learning Collaborative highlights peer-to-peer education delivered to nursing facility staff and leadership over the past three months. The webinar, attended by participants from 180 long-term care facilities across the commonwealth, followed the quarter’s educational theme of enhancing staff’s skills for assessment and management of key conditions. Representatives from nursing facilities from across the state shared best practices on key topics covered during weekly webinars, providing an opportunity for a deeper dive into this quarter’s theme.



Participants were welcomed by Nancy Zionts, MBA, COO and chief program officer at Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and Jill Vovakes, MHA/INF, director of the Bureau of Quality Assurance and Program Analytics in the Department of Human Services Office of Long-Term Living.

Kicking off the Best Practices from Across Pennsylvania segment were: Tracy Roman, RN, MBA, NHA, senior vice president and chief operating officer, and Lisa Vercusky, RAC-CT, RA-CTA, QCP, corporate quality director at Fellowship Community, presenting on successful alarm reduction using a strong “culture of safety;” Erika Mascia, BA, CDP, ADC, activities director/director of social services at Harmon House Care Center, shared on nursing home exercise programs as a strategy for meeting residents’ cognitive and physical needs; Audrey Fernald, RN, BS, infection control preventionist at Fellowship Community, and Debra Wright, RN, BSN, quality improvement specialist at Quality Insights QIN-QIO, presented on improving staff influenza vaccination rates, sharing how Fellowship Community achieved a 98 percent influenza vaccination rate for staff; Taylor McMahon, RN, director of nursing at The Willows Presbyterian SeniorCare Network, shared best practices for working with residents living with dementia using the Age-Friendly Framework and the 4Ms model of care; Christina Lopez, LBSW, social services director at Frederick Living, discussed using a palliative care lens to promote quality end-of-life care within the nursing home and how the facility is increasing staff and resident/family understanding of the benefits of palliative care.

Attendees next heard from Sophie A. Campbell, MSN, RN, CRRN, RAC-CT, CNDLTC, executive director of educational programming and services at the Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration (PADONA). Campbell presented on Fostering the Development of Nursing Administration in Long-Term Care. A nonprofit voluntary organization of Pennsylvania long-term care professionals, PADONA provides education and tools to facilitate education and promotes

long-term care nursing as a unique science-based nursing specialty.

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Aging Initiatives Program Manager Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, CECM, provided an update on resources available to Learning Network participants via Tomorrow's HealthCare, including session recordings, an interactive forum for sharing best practices, a variety of supplemental resources, upcoming events, and "Q-Tips," quality improvement strategies to share with staff.

JHF launched the [Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Learning Network](#) in 2022 in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) and three managed care organizations of the Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices Program: UPMC Health Plan, PA Health and Wellness, and Amerihealth Caritas/Keystone. This work will advance and support the DHS strategic quality incentive program for nursing facilities.

JHF Staff Participate in Stop the Bleed Training

On September 20, Jewish Healthcare Foundation staff participated in a two-hour *Stop the Bleed* training, learning three techniques to help save a life before someone bleeds out to empower them to assist in an emergency and potentially save a life.

Since 2016, JHF has funded and guided a regional *Stop the Bleed* initiative – a community outreach, training, and action program that empowers the public with the first responder skills and equipment necessary to stop or slow life-threatening bleeding in the event of emergency or mass casualty events. JHF has purchased bleeding control kits for every synagogue and Jewish school in the city of Pittsburgh.



The course was taught by Allegheny Health Network (AHN) trauma prevention coordinator Jim Stupar; Cathy Stoddard, RN; and Pittsburgh Police Lt. Eric Kroll. JHF staff were supplied with an emergency bleeding first aid kit following the training.

JHF Sponsors Second Annual Eradicate Hate Conference in Pittsburgh

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was a proud sponsor of the second annual [Eradicate Hate Global Summit](#) held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center September 19–21.

Born out of the Tree of Life massacre in Pittsburgh in October 2018, the Eradicate Hate Global Summit is the most comprehensive anti-hate conference in the world, uniting experts and leaders from around the globe who are dedicated to eradicating all forms of hate-fueled violence. Convening each year around the anniversary of the Tree of Life massacre, the mission of the Summit is to identify and implement effective solutions for collective change.



This year's agenda addressed violent extremism in police and military; prevention in practice; legal strategies; education and public awareness; community preparedness and response; the rise of hate among young adults; and global government response.

Keynote speakers included Christine Abizaid, director of the National Counterterrorism Center; Paul Ash, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Cyber and Digital and the Christchurch call and cyber coordinator; Jeff Blattner, board chair of HIAS; Steven Dettelbach, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Joshua Geltzer, deputy assistant to President Biden and deputy Homeland Security advisor; Michael E. Hill, president of Chautauqua

Institution; Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism; Alice Nderitu, United Nations special advisor on the prevention of genocide; Julie Platt, chair of the Board of Trustees of Jewish Federations of North America; R. Henry Reese and Diane Samuels, cofounders of City of Asylum Pittsburgh; Yuval Shany, Hersch Lauterpacht Chair in International Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and John Tien, deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

JHF Sponsors International Society for Research on Internet Interventions Meeting

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was a proud sponsor of the International Society for Research on Internet Interventions 11th Scientific Meeting (ISR11 11) held in Pittsburgh on September 18-21. The conference was a success with 325 registered attendees from 20 countries joining together at the University Club at the University of Pittsburgh for presentations and discussions on how digital technologies have helped us during the COVID-19 pandemic.



ISR11 11 in Pittsburgh. Photo courtesy of ISR11.

ISR11 is an international organization founded in 2004, and it facilitates the exchange of information on the latest advances in eHealth targeting behavioral, mental, and psychosocial health. Their conference in Pittsburgh was the first in-person annual meeting since their 2019 meeting in New Zealand.

“The Jewish Healthcare Foundation’s generous support ensured the financial viability of ISR11 11 despite uncertain times for holding in-person events and helped bring behavioral health technology researchers from 19 countries and across the U.S. to Pittsburgh,” said Bruce L. Rollman, MD, MPH, ISR11 11 Co-Chair and UPMC Endowed Professor of General Internal Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

ISR11 plans to have two follow-up meetings, in December and February respectively, for Pittsburgh attendees of the conference to follow-up on ties made at the conference, to plan new projects, papers, and grant applications.

Stuart Fisk Embodies Health Activism

Everyone deserves access to compassionate health care, and few know this as well as Stuart Fisk, CRNP. His life's work has been dedicated to HIV activism, research, prevention, and care for persons living with HIV disease.

Fisk's work on HIV and with excluded populations began in the 1990s in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco where he and a team of nurses cared for the forgotten victims of the AIDS epidemic.

Experiencing substance use disorder, mental health issues, undocumented immigration status, and other hurdles, his patients were unable to participate in research studies and didn't have access to basic health care or drugs available in trial studies.

A team of nurses from Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco moved their operations into one single-occupancy hotel that housed about 200 people using drugs actively and doing sex work. Fisk recalls the disgraceful conditions the group worked in trying to provide the most basic care like ensuring patients had clean sheets and didn't die alone.

"I really focused my work from 1992 to 1996 on that population of people, mostly providing hospice services to them. I learned about sex and drugs from my patients in a very real, very human, and often very touching way," Fisk said. "Really deeply understanding the sexual lives of people and how it is connected to their personal needs, their financial needs, their political needs. And the same with drug use."

Fisk became their healthcare connection. As he continues to bring health care to marginalized populations in Pittsburgh, he carries those faces and places with him.

"At the time, people asked me why I worked with *those* people who were irretrievable and unchangeable. I learned that's not true," Fisk said. "Those people taught me how to be a healthcare provider. They also taught me how to be a better human being."

Fisk has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from West Virginia University and a Master of Science in nursing from San Francisco State University. He has a certificate for CRNP Adult Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh and is certified by the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

"I had more personal connections to the epidemic in terms of friends, both living with and dying from AIDS, and I have more of an activist interest in public health," Fisk said. "I thought about going to medical school for about 15 to 20 minutes and then decided to go to nursing school and never looked back."

In 2015, when AIDS Free Pittsburgh was founded, Fisk was at the table, knowing well that AIDS needed to be addressed. The disease has been detectable for the past 30 years and able to be treated for 20 years, yet cases continued to rise because it is glossed over in differential diagnosis due to the stigma associated with it.



He lauded AIDS Free Pittsburgh's work to break through the barriers surrounding HIV/AIDS but remains discouraged by the lack of testing in healthcare systems and the patients who end up in late stages of the disease due to lack of diagnosis.

"We order more MRIs than we do HIV tests, and HIV tests cost a couple of bucks at this point. It's an unwillingness for healthcare providers to see the problem because it's not like they see HIV every day. Providers in general are afraid to talk to their patients about sex and drugs in an open, honest, nonjudgmental way where they're not the expert."

At that time, AIDS Free Pittsburgh was taking shape, so was the [Center for Inclusion and Health at Allegheny Health Network](#).

Focusing on excluded and complex populations who sit on the margins of the healthcare system, Fisk began to create innovative programs, evaluate them, and to then propose them to the healthcare system as ways to revolutionize the way health care is perceived and received.

"I fundamentally do not believe that the way we've structured health care in our country is correct, ethical, or sustainable in the long term," Fisk said. "This isn't charity work. It's solving the problems of the health system."

As Director of Strategy at the Center, he became the first nurse practitioner to sit at the level of a physician division director. A non-traditional leader, he leads at the bedside, in street outreach programs, in the community at large, at the board level, and in the clinic.

The Center provides addiction medicine, homeless health care, offers rapid HIV testing, provides food insecurity counseling and services, treats immigrant and refugee populations, and provides transgender health care. It strives to create innovative programs, evaluate them, and shape them into systemwide changes to provide better care and produce better outcomes.

He is the former principal investigator for the Ryan White Grant, Positive Health Clinic. JHF has funded his work supporting the establishment of doula programs in refugee communities and its work with exchange sex workers. He has worked with [Prevention Point Pittsburgh](#), one of only two legal syringe services programs in Pennsylvania, since 1996 as a volunteer, naloxone prescriber and board member, with JHF being one of the first funders of its needle exchange.

"We knew that if we could create systems for the most excluded and complex populations in our community then everyone would benefit. When you take the most complex, excluded, difficult patients and put them in the waiting room everyone gets better care. The providers have to be better, more patient, better trained. They have to be kinder. Everyone benefits from that," Fisk said. "I think our work has been a catalyst to changing the way people think about health care in the community."