



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

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New Plans for JAA Site Realize Vision for an Urban Senior Village in Squirrel Hill

On October 10, the Jewish Association on Aging (JAA) announced plans to sell part of its property on Browns Hill Road in Squirrel Hill to develop an innovative urban senior village, a model the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has advocated for over the past three decades. The project is being led by Continental Real Estate, a well-known nationwide developer and builder in the senior residential space, and the plans realize a dream for many seniors to have an integrated living community in the heart of Pittsburgh. JHF staff and officers have been engaged in the decisions regarding this latest campus redevelopment, and JHF is enthusiastic about what this new resource could mean for senior living options in Pittsburgh.



Aerial photo of the current JAA campus (Image by the Jewish Association on Aging)

Continental Real Estate brings the resources and experience to build something world-class for local seniors. They have developed senior communities in several states including Apple Blossom in Moon Township, Pennsylvania; Ashton Commons in Wexford, Pennsylvania; Kingsdale Senior Living in Arlington, Ohio; and Worthington Hills in Columbus, Ohio. Continental has also led commercial developments in the Pittsburgh area including The Waterfront, The North Shore, and the Galleria of Mt. Lebanon.

This development begins a new chapter for the campus, a journey which began for JHF in its earliest days when the existing Jewish nursing home lost its state license. A decision was made to rebuild an updated, physically beautiful, more extensive residential complex on the same site—although the site at that time abutted a slag heap and looked across the river at a decrepit steel mill site. JHF helped shaped the initial vision for the Browns Hill campus before there was a Jewish Association on Aging, before there was a Summerset or a Waterfront. Originally, the campus was to include skilled nursing, assisted living, personal care, adult day care, childcare, independent living, hospice, rehabilitation, and a health clinic. Not all these services were ultimately developed, and some have had to be reconsidered as the long-term care industry has and will face many challenges.

Since 1995, JHF has invested more than \$75 million in Jewish aging programs and partnerships within our community, including \$60 million to directly support the activities of the JAA. This began with an initial investment of \$20 million in 1995 and followed with subsequent \$5 and \$8.64 million additions to ensure completion of the initial building project. This commitment continued with an annual grant of \$900,000 allocated through the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh to support aging and human needs in the Jewish community, including JAA operations and programs, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, Jewish Family and Community Services (and the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry), Agewell Pittsburgh and Jewish Residential Services Pittsburgh. And, in 2006, JHF applied for and secured the Federal funding for the Squirrel Hill Health Center, an outstanding accessible and culturally-appropriate health clinic with a strong geriatric component.

Despite this financial investment, changes in the industry and reimbursement rates led to the closing of the Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in 2021. Other excellent faith-based skilled nursing facilities have also closed over the last few years for the same reasons. The JAA continues to operate the AHAVA Memory Center in its original space, and, in separate buildings, The Residence at Weinberg Terrace on Darlington Rd and The New Riverview on Browns Hill Road.

Along with new challenges come new opportunities, and JHF has tried to adapt its aspirations to available options. The vision for an urban senior village builds on decades of work at JHF by our experienced aging team that tracks community needs, examines best practice models from around the globe, and pilots senior programs around the state. JHF's five senior planning Charrettes, which began in 2016, engaged community stakeholders in creative solutions for aging well in the community. Those insights have fueled programming at JHF such as: Senior Connections programs like *Fit with a Physician*, the [Virtual Senior Academy](#), and GRAN Reading program. Moreover, JHF's aging team developed and expanded the statewide Dementia Friends PA to support persons living with dementia and their caregivers.

The newest chapter of the Browns Hill Road campus offers much potential to support new residential options for urban seniors. Having a strong, experienced, private-equity partner like Continental guarantees the knowledge and resources to move senior living in Squirrel Hill to a new dimension. And the Jewish community is committed to building new programmatic options as well.

Meanwhile, JHF remains active in serving seniors regionally, statewide, and even nationally through research, creative programming, and advocacy. Read more about JHF's longstanding commitment to seniors and our aspirations for the coming year in an op-ed in the Jewish Chronicle [here](#).

Dementia Friends Pennsylvania Reaches 10,000 Friends Statewide

On October 28, 2022, Dementia Friends Pennsylvania hit a historic landmark by announcing 10,000 Dementia Friends statewide.

A Dementia Friend attends a one-hour information session, learns about what it is like to live with dementia by gaining an understanding of the five key messages around dementia. Participants then turn their understanding into a practical action – big or small – to support persons living with dementia in their community.



In May of 2018, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) became the state administrator for the Dementia Friends Pennsylvania initiative, seeking to educate communities across the commonwealth about dementia, break down stigma surrounding dementia, and encourage individuals to implement practical changes to best support people living with dementia.

"The goal is one friend at a time to really impact the way people talk about dementia," said Anneliese Perry, MS, JHF program manager, aging initiatives. "Looking back to where we started four years ago, it is gratifying to see something that you're passionate about start so small and grow into something beyond our expectation. To know that it is making a difference for others is what keeps us going and growing."

In the first nationally representative study of cognitive impairment prevalence in more than 20 years, Columbia University researchers have found almost 10% of U.S. adults ages 65 and older have dementia, while another 22% have mild cognitive impairment.

Estimates are the number of people living with dementia will triple by 2050.

To meet this need, the program deploys a train-the-trainer model. Dementia Friends Champion Volunteers are equipped to offer in-person Dementia Friends Information Sessions to community members, further expanding the programs reach.

"It's the 'wow factor' that sits on their faces as you present these details, facts, and stories. The feedback from the friends in the sessions, the tears of joy and sadness. They can't wait to refer their friends to you to host a session for them – it's like a domino effect," said Dementia Friends Champion Rachal Estle, MSW, LSW Greene County Supervisor Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging. "Overall, it is bringing awareness to those never touched by the disease while at the same time touching the hearts of those who have experienced it in some way, shape or form.

Perry and Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L, JHF program manager, aging initiatives, are passionate about developing programming that is inclusive of all people living with dementia.

"We want everyone in Pennsylvania to be a Dementia Friend, but we've changed our goals to make Dementia Friends accessible to everyone in Pennsylvania by creating curriculum for youth and continuing to translate the program into different languages," Bonenberger said.

NPSB Full Court Press Meeting Serves Up the Latest *Up Next for Patient Safety* Podcast Episode

The National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) Full Court Press meeting held on October 10 provided more than a forum for sharing updates on the effort to establish an NPSB: it also served as the setting for capturing [the latest episode](#) of the *Up Next for Patient Safety* podcast.

The NPSB has been designed to complement existing patient safety programs, many of which exist across the healthcare landscape. Many organizations have a hand in some aspect of patient safety, but no entity has full responsibility for



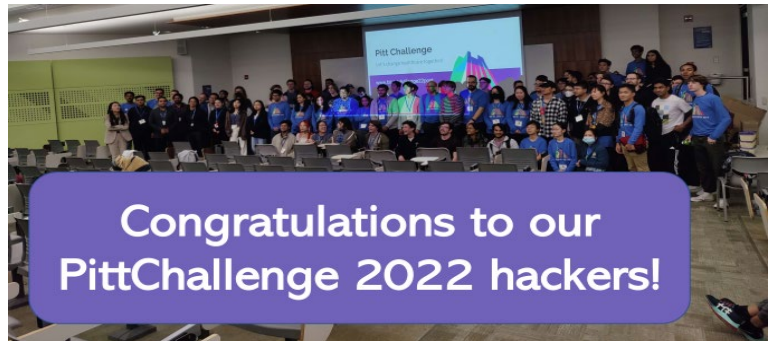
ensuring safety in health care. During the Full Court Press meeting, Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, had the opportunity to bring together a stellar panel of experts in safety from both within and outside of health care to explore avenues for uniting the efforts of existing organizations to finally make meaningful progress on patient safety. Joining Dr. Feinstein for this discussion were healthcare safety watchdog Leah Binder, MA, MGA; pilot and former National Transportation Safety Board chair Christopher A. Hart, JD, MSE; professor of engineering and risk reduction expert Najmedin Meshkati, PhD, MS; and esteemed healthcare leader Julie Morath, RN, MS. The group provided insights for how collaborative approaches have led to vastly improved safety in other industries and the potential for similar gains in health care.

Listen to [“Proposing New Partnerships.”](#)

HackMIT & the Pitt Challenge Recognize Patient Safety Award Winners

The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative’s (PRHI) Patient Safety Technology Challenge celebrated the completion of two more patient safety awards. As part of the Challenge, PRHI sponsored awards at HackMIT and The Pitt Challenge during October.

HackMIT 2022, one of the largest undergraduate hackathons in the world, was an intensive weekend-long event held October 1-2, gathering thousands of students from around the world to MIT’s Cambridge, Massachusetts campus to use software and/or hardware project. The Patient Safety Technology Challenge, with support from the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, sponsored the patient safety technology track which asked teams to think of a “Big Idea” to tackle a leading cause of harm in patient safety.



The teams were judged based on their demonstration of how their idea applies and solves a pressing patient safety issue. Judges included Jeffrey Rothschild, MD MPH, a professor of medicine at the Harvard Medicine School and Dr. Patty Dukes.

Winning ideas included:

- [TL;Dr](#), a project focusing on reducing medical harms associated with handoffs and discharges of patients through the standardizing automation that summarizes medical team notes and collating information from jargon-heavy medical team notes to allow patients to better understand their discharge summaries.
- [Copy-cast](#), a technology-enabled exoskeleton that can mirror another person’s hand movements. Health applications include to health include guiding surgeries and a mobility tool for patients to work on motor control.
- [roaree](#), a platform for healthcare professionals to collaborate on machine-learning to patient solutions.

The Pitt Challenge on October 21-22 welcomed participants from across pharmacy, engineering, and design to engage in critical conversations regarding healthcare and pharmacy. Hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, the interdisciplinary hackathon was structured to help students solve some of the biggest challenges facing the world today.

Ten projects were submitted to the patient safety track, of which Pill Identifier was the winner of the the Patient Safety Technology Challenge-sponsored award, receiving \$500. The Pill Identifier allows a user to take a picture or upload a file of a pill. In return, they receive information about which pill it most likely classified as from information in the group's data set. See the team's pitch and learn more about their project [here](#).

PRHI Funds Five Additional Patient Safety Technology Challenge Competitions Across the Country

Five additional competitions are participating in the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#), funded by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and administered by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative. The Patient Safety Technology Challenge is designed to fuel the engagement of students and innovators in creating solutions and envisioning transformational approaches to reduce preventable harm from medical errors and reimagine a vastly safer healthcare system. The new competitions or events joining the effort with awards recognizing patient safety solutions include: Bench to Bedside based at the University of Utah, the Columbia-CareOne Healthcare Innovation Challenge based at Columbia University, the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge, Penn Nursing Innovation Accelerator, and SXSW (South by Southwest) 2023.



Each competition asks participants to address one or more of the five categories of error: Medication, procedural/surgical, patient care, infection, and diagnostic. [Learn more about the competitions here](#).

Robert Ferguson Presents ‘Policy and Coalition Work for Establishing a National Patient Safety Board’ at the ACMQ 2022 Annual Conference

Jewish Health Foundation’s Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH was a featured speaker at the 2022 Annual Conference of the American College of Medical Quality (ACMQ), leading the session “Policy and Coalition Work for Establishing a National Patient Safety Board.” Ferguson’s session highlighted the need and extensive work to establish an NPSB support existing agencies in monitoring and anticipating adverse events with artificial intelligence, conduct studies, create recommendations and solutions to prevent medical error, and leverage existing systems to bring key learnings into practice. In attendance were ACMQ members who include senior medical directors and C-suite leadership from across the country.



Karen Wolk Feinstein’s Viewpoint in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*: “Making Decisions with Eyes Wide Open”

The effect of limiting a women’s right to choose to prevent or end a pregnancy on business, the workforce, and economic advancement was recently highlighted in an op-ed published in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*. [“Making Decisions with Eyes Wide Open”](#) written by Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, underlined the unintended consequences that changes to Pennsylvania’s abortion laws would have on family income, the economic viability of local companies, state, and local finances, and on the physical and mental health of women. Read the [op-ed in the Pittsburgh Business Times](#).



Nancy Zionts Joins Panel Discussion on Palliative Care Policy Opportunities

Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Chief Operating Officer and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, joined a panel discussion on Policy Opportunities to Advance Palliative Care during the fourth annual [Palliative Research Center](#) (PaRC) annual retreat on October 13 at the University Club in Oakland.

Participants included palliative care researchers as well as medical students and post-doctoral fellows. Zionts emphasized JHF's long-standing commitment to pursuing change at the policy level and shared the baseball metaphor of how JHF defines success in effecting change, with policy change considered a "grand slam."



Nancy Zionts, MBA, discusses policy change opportunities at Palliative Research Center annual retreat. (Photo courtesy of PaRC, Twitter: @PittPalCare)

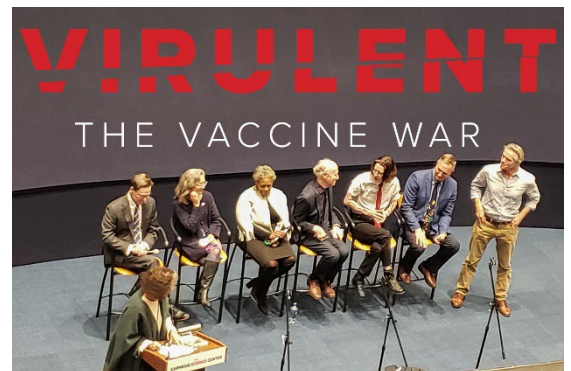
She stressed that it is difficult to roll back bad policy once it has been created, so investing in policy work informed by expert guidance and research is critical. She invited participants to get involved in the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life, by contacting JHF Senior Communications and Program Specialist Lisa George, MPH, CHES, and promoted the Salk Health Activist Fellowship as an avenue for developing advocacy skills.

PaRC is a multidisciplinary collaborative of palliative care researchers founded by Robert Arnold, MD, through the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

JHF-Funded *Virulent: The Vaccine Wars* Hosts Premier Screening in Pittsburgh

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) attended the [Virulent: The Vaccine War](#) Pittsburgh premiere film screening hosted by WQED at the Carnegie Science Center on October 26. JHF was an early funder of the project which examines vaccine hesitancy and denial, tracing the history of anti-vax activists and how COVID-19 is what they practiced for – a national conversation about vaccine safety and mandates.

The documentary film was directed by Tjardus Greidanus and produced by Laura Davis and Greidanus with Dr. Paul Offit serving as medical advisor to the film.



Following the screening, a panel was held including: Dr. Debra Bogen, director of the Allegheny Health Department; Dr. Terrence Dermody, chair of the Department of Pediatrics, University of



Nancy Zions, Karen Feinstein, Debra Caplan, and Mary Lou McLaughlin.

Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, SVP/Chief Clinical Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, Allegheny Health Network; Dr. Peter Salk, president, The Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation; Dr. Todd Wolynn, CEO, Kids Plus Pediatrics; with moderator Bill Flanagan, chief corporate relations officer, Allegheny Conference.

The host committee for the screening included Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein, Deborah Acklin, Jason Brown, Noland Cheung, Rich Fitzgerald, Mark Nordenberg, and Sridhar Tayur.

A brief preview of the film is [available here](#).

JHF Staff Attend United States Conference on HIV/AIDS

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Chief Relationship Officer, Richard C. Smith, MSW and HIV Program Coordinator Christopher Garnett, MSS attended the [2022 United States Conference on HIV/AIDS](#) in San Juan, Puerto Rico Oct. 8-11.

The conference, themed Luchando Por Nuestras Vidas (Fighting For Our Lives), focused on disparities in healthcare among people of color and those for whom English is not their primary language. The conference was held over four days and presented various topics, including "Ending the Epidemic," "The National HIV/AIDS Strategy," addressing housing issues among people living with HIV, transgender health barriers, and new biomedical prevention techniques.

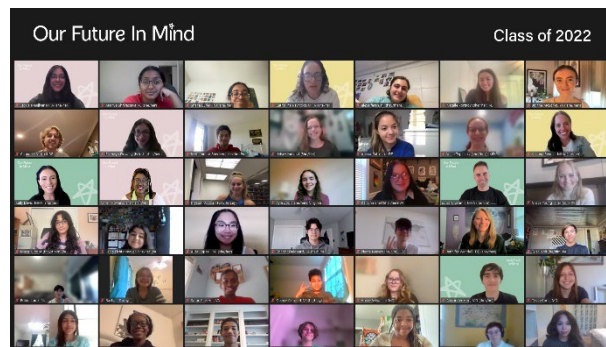
Key takeaways were the lack of competent medical care for the LatinX communities across America, HIV and aging disparities, and natural disaster effects on vulnerable populations.



Richard C. Smith, MSW, left, and Christopher Garnett, MSS at the 2022 United States Conference on HIV/AIDS.

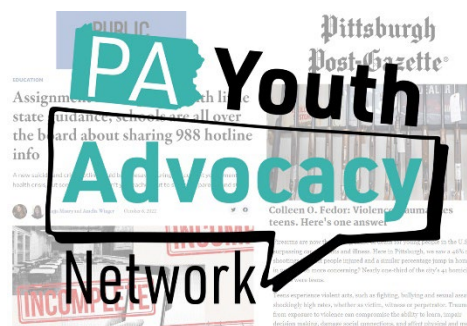
PA Youth Advocacy Network Members Attend Our Future in Mind Leadership Training

Five [PA Youth Advocacy](#) student leaders were accepted into the [Our Future in Mind: Local Edition](#) training program this month, including Connor Dalgaard, Alekhya Buragadda, Tyler Nolt, Mohammed Shedeed, and Brynn Sorley. In the program, 50 current and recent high schoolers from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia will participate in a three-part training, to learn leadership skills and strategies for school mental health advocacy.



PA Youth Advocacy Network in the News: Post-Gazette Op-Ed, Interview in Public Source

On Oct. 7, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette published the op-ed [“Violence traumatizes teens. Here’s one answer”](#) by Colleen O. Fedor of The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The piece focused on the importance of mentoring and PA Youth Advocacy’s collaborative work to empower youth advocates and community partners to lead advocacy and awareness-building efforts at the community and state levels. On Oct. 6, PA Youth Advocacy Network member Mohammad Shedeed, was interviewed by *Public Source* for the article [“Which schools in Allegheny County have shared info on 988?”](#)



JHF Welcomes New AIDS Free Pittsburgh Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator

Hazell Azzer Carpenter-Saunders has joined the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) as the AIDS Free Pittsburgh community outreach and engagement coordinator for the HIV/AIDS Team. In his role, he develops ongoing community engagement opportunities and coordinates activities designed to increase access to medical and non-medical HIV services in southwestern Pennsylvania. He is an activist for youth who identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community and youth who have graduated out of the foster care system and has volunteered at various LGBTQIA+ centers, gaining an extensive knowledge of different providers, drop-in spaces, and clinicians in the Pittsburgh area. During his time in foster care, he sat on many panels



across the state speaking about the various disconnects between the system providers and clients being affected by those decisions. He recently graduated from Edinboro University with a bachelor's degree in Strategic Communications and is a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Endowment Honoring the Life's Work of J. Usha Raj

On October 22 at The Lundquist Institute in Torrance, California, the Institute celebrated the investiture of Lynn M. Smith, MD as the J. Usha Raj Endowed Professor of Pediatrics. [Smith](#) is an investigator at The Lundquist Institute; professor and chair, Department of Pediatrics, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; professor of pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and associate director, clinical and community research resources program, UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute at The Lundquist Institute. Her work specializes in understanding the effects of perinatal stress on the developing brain.



Dr. Raj, the award's namesake, is a nationally and internationally renowned neonatologist and clinician and investigator. She is the Anjuli S. Nayak Endowed Professor of Pediatrics, the head of the Department of Pediatrics, and physician-in-chief at the Children's Hospital University of Illinois. Dr. Raj is a friend of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, a WHAMglobal Board member, and a fellow member of the International Women's Forum along with Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and Debra Caplan, MPA, Chair of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and WHAMglobal Boards.

Caren Glotfelty and Dr. Elizabeth Miller Recognized as Pennsylvania's 2022 Distinguished Daughters

Governor and First Lady Wolf recognized Pennsylvania's [2022 Distinguished Daughters](#) on October 12. Among the 11 women recognized for their leadership, service, and extraordinary achievements were Caren Glotfelty and Dr. Elizabeth Miller, friends of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.



Caren Glotfelty addresses attendees of the Oct. 12 luncheon. (Photo courtesy of the Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania)

Ms. Glotfelty has spent more than 50 years working to conserve, protect and improve the environment. She has served as the environmental program director for The Heinz Endowments, Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Environmental Resource Conservation at The Pennsylvania State University, and Deputy Secretary for Water Management in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources under Governor Bob Casey. She recently retired as executive director of the [Allegheny County Parks Foundation](#), a role in which she partnered with the Allegheny



Dr. Elizabeth Miller speaks. (Photo courtesy of the Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania)

County government to maintain the county parks system as a world-class asset for southwestern Pennsylvania and has dedicated her environmental, governmental, and development expertise to ACPF's past, current, and future success.

Dr. Miller is Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, Public Health, and Clinical and Translational Science and holds the Edmund R. McCluskey Chair in Pediatric Medical Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She is director of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine and medical director of Community and Population Health at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Dr. Miller is a long-time partner of JHF, collaborating on its adolescent behavioral health work and presenting as a guest speaker at JHF's Salk Health Activist Fellowship.

Since the first group was named in 1949, over 500 women have been recognized as Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania.

JHF Sponsors the Midwife Center's 40th Anniversary Ruby Revelry

Several members of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the WHAMglobal team attended the [Midwife Center's Ruby Revelry](#) on September 30 to celebrate 40 years of service and honor the Center's founders. During the celebration, it exceeded its fundraising goal to be used for future programming.

The event brought together those committed to maternal, infant, gynecological, and family health for an evening of food, fellowship, and music in a beautiful outdoor venue at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was a silver sponsor of the event and Sara Nelis, RN, project manager for the [Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#) (PA PQC) and the [Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City](#) initiative, served as the JHF representative on the Center's VIP Host committee.



Pictured from left to right are: Sara Nelis, Jennifer Condel, Abigail Condel, Second Lady of Pennsylvania Giselle Baretto Fedderman, Maureen Saxon-Gioia, Emily Magoc, and Alaina Connor.

Dr. Neel Shah Receives the March of Dimes FDR Humanitarian Award

On October 29, the March of Dimes recognized Neel Shah, MD, MPP, FACOG as this year's recipient of the [Franklin Delano Roosevelt Humanitarian Award](#) at its Boston Gala.



A friend of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and WHAMglobal, [Dr. Shah](#) is the Chief Medical Officer of Maven Clinic, the largest virtual clinic for women's and family health; Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School; and a practicing obstetrician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He is a globally recognized expert in designing solutions that improve health care and is listed among the "40 smartest people in health care" by the Becker's Hospital Review.

Throughout his career, Shah has been a champion of maternal mortality and has supported the work of the [Women's Health Activist Movement Global](#) (WHAMglobal). Dr. Shah co-founded the March for Moms Association, a coalition of more than 20 leading organizations (of which JHF has been a regular supporter), to increase public and private investment in the wellbeing of mothers.

Dr. Joanne Conroy Builds Resilient Health Systems Through Innovation and Compassion

Early in Dr. Joanne Conroy's tenure as a healthcare leader, a three-year-old girl was brought to the pediatric emergency room suffering from an asthma attack. While receiving nebulizer treatments, the end of the device became detached and a young intern hooked it into the wrong port by mistake. Shortly afterwards, the little girl died in her father's arms.

"The family was devastated. The institution was devastated. The nurses were crying when I sat with them. And, the individual who erred in connecting those pieces of equipment... Well, as you can imagine, their life was changed forever. They quit medicine," Dr. Conroy recounted. "That's what happens when you have adverse safety events. There are many, many casualties. I think we need to get closer to it, so we can actually feel it emotionally. You can't forget there are humans behind all of this."



That awful day solidified Dr. Conroy's commitment to building resilient health systems through her role as a leader in every position in which she has served.

Dr. Conroy came full circle at Dartmouth. Dr. Conroy received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Dartmouth College and was the recipient of a Robert Sloan scholarship from Singer Corporation. She received her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Dr. Conroy currently serves as the CEO and president of Dartmouth Health, the largest private employer in the state of New Hampshire. Dartmouth Health is a nonprofit academic health system that includes a 396-bed flagship teaching hospital, a multi-specialty group practice employing more than 1,000 physicians, the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for New Hampshire and Vermont; The Dartmouth Cancer Center, Dartmouth Health Children's Hospital, four affiliate hospitals, and 24 ambulatory care centers.

Prior to arriving at Dartmouth Health, Dr. Conroy served as CEO of Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, a large, integrated delivery system with more than 1,400 physicians, 18,000 employees, \$4 million in grant funding for medical research, and \$2 billion in annual revenue. From 2008 to 2014, she served as Chief Health Care Officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), representing the interests of approximately 350 teaching hospitals and health systems.

She is board certified with the American Board of Anesthesiologists, attained a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Pain Management, and is a diplomate with the American Academy of Pain Management.

She currently serves as the chair-elect designate of the [American Hospitals Association](#) (AHA) Board of Trustees. Dr. Conroy will be chair-elect in 2023 and become the 2024 chair of the AHA. Dr. Conroy is a member of the AHA Executive Committee and Operations Committee. She chaired the AHA Task Force on Primary Care in 2021.

Of her success, Dr. Conroy suggests, it is important to understand an organization's stakeholders and politics. She added, "While many view focusing on workplace culture "the soft stuff", changing the culture is necessary to improve outcomes and retain staff."

Dr. Conroy recognizes that long before the COVID-19 pandemic, but especially in light of the resulting "Great Resignation", it's imperative for healthcare workers at all levels to know that they're coming to work every day to make a difference in people's lives. With over 13,000 employees working in a market of approximately 1.4 million people, she makes it a priority to understand why people are engaged or disengaged in the workplace, what can be fixed, and to continue to work toward improving the areas that seem unfixable.

"We know that when your engagement scores drop, your error rates go up. We need to focus on creating a culture where people can surface concerns so we can address them quickly," Dr. Conroy said.

She also made it a priority in the health systems she leads to integrate the mental healthcare, of staff, into the culture. For example, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dartmouth Health hired a behavioral health provider to work with the residents for check-ins and counseling. The program has been in place for nine months and will remain a part of the workplace culture; also offering time and space for staff at other levels throughout the system.

In addition to evolving the experience and implementation of patient care, Dr. Conroy is also a champion for gender equity and an advocate for women in leadership in all sectors of healthcare.

Her commitment to elevating women leaders, led her to found [Women of Impact](#), an organization dedicated to moving women into leadership positions, in healthcare.

“If we’re looking at the trajectory of women in healthcare leadership positions, it would take 100 years for us to reach parity in the C-Suite. We’re not waiting that long,” Dr. Conroy said. “I have had people say, ‘you shouldn’t do the “woman” thing.’ I’ve always ignored that and when I’ve done bold things around promoting women, it has positively affected not only me and my career, but the women around me.”

Dr. Conroy is a friend of JHF and of its CEO and president Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein, who is a member of Women of Impact. Their friendship and professional collaboration are filled with mutual respect, admiration, and appreciation. Of Dr. Feinstein, Dr. Conroy said, “Karen is a force of nature! What I love about Karen is she is not afraid to be outraged. So many of us have to kind of watch and walk this kind of political diplomatic line. Karen does not feel bound by that, and she uses the Jewish Healthcare Foundation as a platform to get outraged about things that we should be outraged about.”

She noted Dr. Feinstein and JHF’s passion for all areas of healthcare but especially on issues concerning maternal mortality, patient safety, and women’s reproductive rights.

“Karen has the ability to really activate people in a positive way, and it supports what the Jewish Healthcare Foundation was set up to do. She’s been an incredible steward of those resources and has taken it seriously in terms of her commitment to improving health and the Greater Pittsburgh area as well as nationally.”

Women of Impact Gather for Annual Retreat in Savannah

One of the most prestigious groups of women leaders in health and health care reunited in Savannah, Georgia on October 12 with over 50 [Women of Impact](#) gathering to discuss collective action in response to the *Dobbs* decision which reversed *Roe v. Wade*.

The theme of this year’s [Women of Impact](#) retreat was “GET SMART: How to Effectively Leverage Our Influence for a New Frontier in Women’s Health.” The meeting was focused on the impact of the *Dobbs* decision and the decision’s impending widespread repercussions across all levels of health care and in every state. The group laid out the groundwork for ways they can collaborate and elevate one another’s work in this space.



Formed in July 2013, Women of Impact is a small, by-invitation-only group of female executives from all sectors of the healthcare industry. They aim to apply the concept of collective impact to address complex problems in health care. Jewish Healthcare Foundation CEO and president Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD is a founding member of Women of Impact. Jewish Healthcare

Foundation Board member Sonya Borrero, MD, MS, recently joined the Women of Impact and was also able to attend this year's retreat.

Former PRHI Staffer Joins Hospice Choral Group

Naida Reed, a former Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative employee, friend of the Foundation, and author of *The Pittsburgh Way to Efficient Healthcare: Improving Patient Care Using Toyota Base Methods*, is one of a group of singers in the [Pittsburgh Threshold Choir](#) who volunteers by singing at the bedsides of hospice patients in Allegheny County.

The choir provides the gift of song, kindness, and presence by singing gentle, non-sectarian harmonies by request to those who are very ill or dying. The choir also performed for family members and the community on the first anniversary of the Tree of Life massacre commemorative event at the JCC.



Pictured from left to right are: Pat Weiss, Naida Reed, Karen Perkins.

"It is always a deeply personal and moving experience for everyone involved: patients (conscious or not), family members and singers. We have sung for family members after their loved one has died. We have been singing as death occurred. On hard days, we have even had requests from burdened nurses in the hospice units, and we have sung for them," Reed said.

Friend of JHF, Dr. Lewis H. Kuller, passes

It is with great sadness that the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) recognizes the passing of [Dr. Lewis H. Kuller](#). As a leader in the Department of Epidemiology and later the Center for Healthy Aging at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Kuller was a reliable and committed partner to JHF, collaborating to advance the foundation's work to improve women's health and care for seniors. Whether developing ways to address women's heart health through *Working Hearts* or helping to promote healthy outcomes for community dwelling seniors, Dr. Kuller readily provided expertise and insights to mentor JHF's team and to help shape the nutrition, exercise/activity, and behavioral health agendas. He will be missed.



Happy Halloween from JHF!

