



March 2023 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

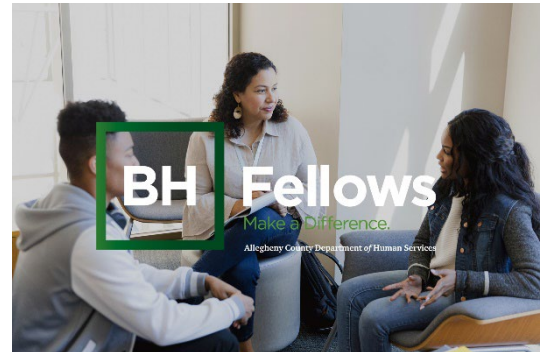
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JHF Named a Lead Partner in New Allegheny County Behavioral Health Fellows Program

A new behavioral health workforce development program aims to support frontline and clinician staff in Pittsburgh, and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has been named the lead partner for the orientation and training programs component. [The Behavioral Health Fellows \(BH Fellows\) program](#), launching in spring 2023, is an innovative Allegheny County-sponsored workforce initiative in partnership with Community Care Behavioral Health to make jobs in target service areas sustainable and attractive for new and existing employees. JHF has made a commitment to offer training and coaching to 180 behavioral health fellows over the next three years.



In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for behavioral health services has never been higher—even as providers face unprecedented challenges in maintaining workforce capacity.

To address this urgent need in the region, the two-year BH Fellows program will recruit diverse talent into the mental health provider network and promote retention of existing talent by presenting approximately 180 fellows with awards over three years in six separate cohorts.

The BH Fellows program will offer accepted fellows: minimum salary levels; loan repayment of up to \$25,000 for workers with a bachelor's degree and up to \$45,000 for workers with a master's degree; professional development and training programs; and a management training program for participating sites' supervisors. The Program will offer participating provider organizations increased staffing for a minimum two-year period with a decreased potential for staff turnover.

Recruitment efforts will target critical staffing deficiencies in four key services areas: Family Based Mental Health, Blended Service Coordination, Crisis Services, and Child Residential Treatment – Diversion and Acute Stabilization. The BH Fellows Program has been approved by The Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education, and JHF will work with local universities to recruit fellows for available positions.

JHF is working with Allegheny County Department of Human Services and the participating provider sites to design and implement the BH Fellows curriculum. Training programs will include both in-person and virtual opportunities, incorporating a collaborative, supportive, responsive, and evidence-based design. Participating fellows' supervisors will also receive a "Management Training

Program” to help ensure that BH Fellows have the support necessary to be successful in their roles.

Three cohorts of BH Fellows will be established in 2023, with approximately 22 awards made to the first cohort this spring. Every few months new cohort applications will be accepted and a new cohort launched. Existing staff and interested new hires in qualifying positions at the provider sites will be eligible to apply for the BH Fellows program. The program anticipates running through 2026.

Read Allegheny County’s [announcement of the BH Fellows program here](#).

WHAMglobal Shifts Focus to Women’s Health Inequality in Older Age; Welcomes New Board Members

WHAMglobal was designed to concentrate on an area of women’s health for a period of time, drive and hopefully document significant progress, and then address another area in need of the same attention and action. On Thursday, March 23, the WHAMglobal board convened to focus on a new topic, *Women’s Health Inequity in Older Age*.

An exceptional cohort of leaders in the women’s health agreed, “Women face many biases based on gender stereotypes, and these have an even greater effect on their health as they age.”

During the meeting, different dimensions of this issue were explored. Women were excluded from research for many decades, during which landmark studies established treatment standards still used today; therefore, there is a dearth of information about how women, especially older women, may be treated successfully for common conditions. In addition, medical biases about gender and age can determine a provider’s reaction to physical and emotional pain, resulting in longer wait times in emergency rooms and the over prescribing of psychotropics and sedatives, for instance.

In a survey of U.S. OB/GYN residents, only 20% receive training in the physiology, effects, and treatment of menopause. Medical school curriculum is too often informed by the body of a 154-pound man. While the U.S. reflects both biases and research gaps in policy and practice, the problem is felt worldwide. In countries with universal health care, older women tend to have more consistent access to medical care; however, the lack of data-driven recommendations for the care of older women creates problems globally. Compared to men, women are: Two-times as likely to suffer (or be diagnosed with) a generalized anxiety disorder; two-times as likely to develop depression at some point in their lives; more than twice as likely to develop PTSD; more likely to attempt suicide; and, concerning, is that older women are 40% less likely to seek mental health treatment than younger women. Additionally, in the U.S. more than 10 million women are either living with a form of dementia or are caring for someone with dementia. These statistics are



Seventeen new members were welcomed to the WHAMglobal Board.

particularly unsettling as women live longer than men; as a result, they experience more comorbid, chronic health conditions, financial risks, and have to face these setbacks alone.

Members of the board discussed the caregiver fatigue women often experience and how it impacts their own care, and how older women are often reluctant to advocate themselves for more appropriate, sensitive, and effective care.

During the meeting, Debra Caplan, WHAMglobal and JHF Board chair, welcomed 16 new board members, including:

- Mercé Boada Rovira, MD, PhD, Co-founder and Medical Director (CMO), Ace Alzheimer Center Barcelona;
- Jamile Camacho, MD, Professor of Surgery and Breast Pathology, Universidad Del Desarrollo, Clinica Alemana;
- Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh;
- Cindy Hounsell, JD, president, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER);
- Amanda H. Lenhard, MD, clinical associate professor of medicine, Chief of Medicine, UPMC Shadyside, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine;
- Della Lin, MS, MD, FASA, anesthesiologist, Board of Directors, Anesthesiology Patient Safety Foundation;
- Kathryn M. McDonald, PhD, MM, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Health Systems, Quality and Safety, Johns Hopkins University;
- Judith A. Monroe, MD, president and CEO, CDC Foundation;
- Julianne M. Morath, BSN, MS, CPPS, affiliate faculty, Department of General Internal Medicine, University of Washington, advisor and consultant in Quality, Safety and Leadership, former president and CEO HQI;
- Beverly Morrow, MCHES, retired, TLM Management;
- Anne B. Newman, MD, MPH, chair in geroscience, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine;
- Valerie Njie, MS, president, Pitt Alumni Association, University of Pittsburgh;
- Judith Reichman, MD, obstetrician-gynecologist, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center;
- Lisa Simpson, MB, BCh, MPH, FAAP, president and chief executive officer, AcademyHealth;
- Terry W. Starz, MD, clinical professor of medicine, Division of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Returning members were also welcomed, including: Nadene Alhadeff, CEO, Mum for Mum at the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia; Carolyn Clancy, MD, assistant deputy under secretary for health for discovery, education and affiliate networks, Veterans Health Administration; Susan Greenspan, MD, professor of endocrinology and geriatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Cindy Hounsell, JD, president, Institute for a Secure Retirement; Wendy Leonard, MD, AAHIVS, executive director, TIP Global Health; Sue Matthews, RN, MHSN, DPH, CEO, Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne; Usha Raj, Anjuli S. Nayak Professor of Pediatrics, University of Illinois at Chicago; Fleur Sack, MD, family physician, Fleur S. Sack LLC; Chen Shapira, MD, cofounder and chief medical officer, Quai.MD; and Laurie Zephyrin, MD, MPH, MBA, vice president, Health Care Delivery System Reform, The Commonwealth Fund New York.

JHF Accepting Proposals for Maternal Health Innovation Grants Ranging Between \$15,000 - \$100,000

Maternal mortality is a serious public health issue in Pennsylvania, with a pregnancy-associated mortality rate of 82 deaths per 100,000 live births. Race, pre-existing health conditions, social determinants of health, and early access to prenatal care have all been linked as contributing factors of poor maternal outcomes.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is operating as the fiscal agent for federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in order to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and to support new families in Pennsylvania.



JHF is currently seeking proposals for innovative maternal care grants which will positively impact maternal health outcomes. Proposals must address the goal of reducing maternal mortality, reducing maternal morbidity, and/or supporting new families in Pennsylvania. Grants may range from infrastructure, information technology, staff, services, materials, etc., so long as applications demonstrate how the grant will benefit pregnant people and/or new families.

JHF will continue to consider applications under this RFP through April 30, 2024 or until funding is fully expended. More details and application [available here](#).

Patient Safety Technology Challenge Celebrates Patient Safety Award Winners at SXSW, Stanford, Penn, and more

The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's (PRHI) Patient Safety Technology Challenge celebrated the completion of four more patient safety awards during March. As part of the Challenge's purpose to inspire innovators to develop solutions to reduce medical error, PRHI sponsored awards at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, the Hollomon Health Innovation Challenge at the University of Washington, Penn Nursing Innovation Accelerator, and TreeHacks hosted by Stanford University.



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. It recognizes the most innovative technology-enabled solutions focused on one or more of the five leading causes of patient harm: medication errors, patient care, procedural/surgical, infections and diagnostic error.

South by Southwest (SXSW)



On the evening of Monday, March 13, SXSW registrants gathered for the [24th Annual SXSW Innovation Awards](#) presented by PRHI's "Patient Safety Technology Challenge." More than 800 people were in attendance. Each of the categories, including the Patient Safety Technology Challenge award, were narrowed down to three to five finalists who were judged on creativity, design, and function by a panel of industry leaders and experts, including patient safety expert and Pascal Metrics CEO Drew Ladner.

[Kalogon](#), the world's first smart wheelchair cushion company, won the patient safety technology category at the 24th annual SXSW Innovation Awards. Kalogon's technology addresses the persistent patient safety concern of pressure sores through their AI-enhanced technology.

Other finalists in the patient safety technology category included: [Diamontech D-Pocket](#), a medical device that noninvasively measures your blood glucose using a sensor, rather than finger pricking, a drop of blood, or a test strip; [Jurata Thin Film](#), a startup focused on stabilizing vaccines at ambient temperature by immobilizing the biological pharmaceuticals into a solid film matrix; and [Wide Awake VR \(WAVR\)](#), utilizes customized, original, virtual reality content with wide-awake patients during surgery to eliminate the danger and expense of traditional anesthesia.

Holloman Health Innovation Challenge

The winner of the Patient Safety Technology Challenge award at the Holloman Health Innovation Challenge, hosted by University of Washington's Foster School of Business, was SmarTrach. The team won the \$2,500 Patient Safety Technology Challenge Best Idea for Patient Safety Award to develop their idea for a tracheostomy tube attachment that uses a hot-wire airflow sensor to measure real-time airflow and alert push alerts to caregivers' smartphones when airflow is obstructed. The winning solution was developed by mechanical engineers pursuing their master's degree at UW as well as a nurse and a medical doctor from Seattle Children's Hospital.



Penn Nursing Innovation Accelerator

The Penn Nursing Innovation Accelerator, hosted by University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, provides funding and mentorships to assist Penn Nursing students, recent graduates, and faculty

with the creation and testing of early-stage solutions to improve health and healthcare outcomes with a priority on populations of greatest need.

IMPACTT, a free educational platform for every patient and their caregiver, won the \$10,000 Patient Safety Technology Track. The IMPACTT team, made up of Penn nurses, believes that giving patients the tools to provide more information will lead to less anxiety and better outcomes. The IMPACTT application includes a library of educational material, connects patients to their care team, and collects real-time data for their care team. With the funding from the competition, the team are planning to complete the STEM Cell Transplant Module and deploy it for patient use later this year.

TreeHacks

TreeHacks, hosted by Stanford University, awarded Amanuensis the BIG IDEA: Best Technology-Enabled Patient Safety Solution award this year. Held February 17-19, the competition gathered over 1,600 hackers from across the globe.

Paul Tang, MD, professor at Stanford, serves as the judge and held a workshop on patient safety technology at the start of the hackathon, as an opportunity for hackers to understand the problem-solving mental model of physicians managing patient care as a basis for making care safer. Over 20 teams competed for the patient safety technology prize. The winner was Amanuensis, an artificial intelligence-enabled physician assistant that can automate clinical summarization and question generation, giving providers relevant and timeline insights for more accurate diagnoses. The team received a \$2,000 award.

Read more about past competitions and winners involved in the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge website](#).

Four Patient Safety Awards Added to Competitions Across the Country

Four additional competitions are participating in the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#) funded by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and administered by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative: Emory University's GHA 2040 Healthcare Futuring Competition, University of Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute's Edward J. Aldag Jr. Student Business Plan Competition, MIT Hacking Medicine Grand Hack, and the Healthcare Innovation Sprint.



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 will feature awards recognizing tech-enabled patient safety solutions as well as transformational redesigns of our healthcare system.

Emory University's GHA 2040 Healthcare Futuring Competition on April 7, 2023 invites Emory students of all disciplines to apply to participate in the Goizueta Healthcare Association's 2040 Healthcare Futuring Competition. "Futuring" is a unique competition design that invites perspectives across Emory graduate programs to evaluate what the future of health care looks like if all legacy systems were left behind. The cash prize pool is \$2,500 with \$1,500 for the winning team and \$1,000 for the runner up.

The University of Alabama's Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute will hold its 2023 Edward K. Aldag Jr. Student Business Plan Competition on April 13 and 14. Students were invited to form teams in early March, with at least one member of the team enrolled at The University of Alabama or an alumnus within the past year. Teams will compete for over \$50,000 in prizes, competing virtually in Round One on April 13 and then the teams who make it to Round Two will be invited to pitch in-person on the 14th. The Patient Safety Technology Challenge has sponsored a new \$2,500 prize for the best tech-enabled solution.


MIT Hacking Medicine Grand Hack is an annual healthcare innovation challenge, calling participants to brainstorm and build innovative solutions with hundreds of engineers, clinicians, designers, developers, and business people. The competition will be held from April 20-23 in Boston. This year's multi-theme event includes a Patient Safety Technology Challenge prize. The winning team will take home \$10,000.

The Patient Safety Technology Challenge has partnered with the Healthcare Innovation Sprint at the University of Central Arkansas, which guides students through an immersive, five-day training program where they learn about healthcare innovation, how to identify potential problems, gather information from key stakeholders and customers, and develop a solution. The week-long, all-expenses-paid camp concludes with the presentation of ideas at Demo Day with \$2,500 available in prizes that will fund patient safety tech-enabled solutions. [The final deadline for entry is April 24.](#) The bootcamp will be held from May 14-19 for rising juniors, seniors, immediate graduates, and graduate and doctoral students at Arkansas colleges and universities.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh's Five-Year Impact Published in Academic Journal

An overview of the AIDS Free Pittsburgh (AFP) program looking at the first five years of the program was accepted for publication in the journal, *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*.

["Getting to Zero in Allegheny County: Implementation of a Collective Impact Model to Achieve Ending the HIV Epidemic Objectives,"](#) provides a detailed description of the



The screenshot shows the top portion of a PubMed abstract page. At the top is the NIH logo and text: "National Library of Medicine National Center for Biotechnology Information". Below this is the citation information: "> Sex Transm Dis. 2023 Feb 28. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.0000000000001791." The title of the article is "Getting to Zero in Allegheny County: Implementation of a Collective Impact Model to Achieve Ending the HIV Epidemic Objectives". The authors listed are "Darren L Whitfield ¹, Ashley Chung ², Laurenia Mangum ³, Jerone T Stoner ⁴, Emma E Seagle ⁵, Julia Och ⁶, Sue Steele ⁷; for AIDS Free Pittsburgh". There are links for "Affiliations + expand" and "PMID: 36849263 DOI: 10.1097/OLQ.0000000000001791". The section "Abstract" begins with the text: "Background: Allegheny County Pennsylvania has the second highest HIV prevalence in the state. In the county, racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately impacted by HIV."

community-level project, the activities conducted by the collective, a summary of project outcomes, and lessons learned for replicating the project in other mid-sized, mid-HIV incidence jurisdictions.

Allegheny County has the second highest HIV prevalence in Pennsylvania.

[AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#) was established in 2015 with the goals of reducing new HIV infections by 75% and declaring Allegheny County AIDS-free, with no new AIDS cases by 2020, by using a collective impact framework in which partners pledge to collect and share data uniformly across health systems, co-organize events for provider and community education, and enhance access to quality healthcare by developing resources and referral networks.

Ryan White Learning Collaborative Bi-Monthly Meeting Gathers Allegheny County Agencies to Share and Dance

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Ryan White Learning Collaborative convened at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation on March 15 gathering frontline workers, case managers, and community health workers to network, learn, and vogue.

Approximately 35 people from 12 different agencies in Allegheny County were in attendance to network, sharing opportunities for professional development across providers.

Dr. Ken Ho, MD, MPH, an infectious disease clinician at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Medicine, Medical Director of the Pitt Mens Study, the Pittsburgh branch of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study, and JHF board member provided an HIV overview and updates on current trends, highlighting the importance of revisiting the information service providers have been taught in the past and how treatment has evolved over the years, particularly with new injectables for both treatment and prevention.



Dr. Ken Ho presents information on current trends in HIV/AIDS.



John Easter of TrueT Pgh teaches participants, including Dr. Ken Ho (left) and Christopher Garnett, MSS, HIV/AIDS program coordinator, how to vogue.

To conclude the session, Duane Binon and John Easter from TrueT Pgh facilitated a vogue workshop which concluded with a dance off in which audience voted, case manager, Coley Alston as winner.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation serves as the fiscal agent for the Ryan White Part B, Ryan White MAI, State Rebate and HUD HOPWA (Housing and Urban Development – Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) funding in the 11-county southwestern Pennsylvania region and elsewhere in the Commonwealth. These funding streams facilitate the delivery

of health care, supportive and housing services to eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and prevention and education services to at-risk populations.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh Featured on KDKA

[AIDS Free Pittsburgh's](#) Chief Relationship Officer and Project Director Richard Smith, MSW and Ken Ho, MD, MPH, medical director of the Pitt Men's Study and a JHF Board member, were featured [on KDKA on March 27](#) discussing AIDS Free Pittsburgh's work, including its recent [11-county media campaign](#), [PrEP awareness and access](#), the [Fast Track Cities implementation](#) to reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals in Pittsburgh by 2030, and efforts to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS while reducing the stigma of HIV/AIDS including upcoming preparations for this year's Too Hot for July event. [Watch the interview here](#).



Health Careers Futures Board Discusses New Funding Opportunities for the Healthcare Workforce and to Improve Maternal and Child Health

For several years, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and Health Careers Futures have been focused on the healthcare workforce crisis and how the Foundation can work to address this issue.

During the Health Careers Futures Board meeting on March 22, JHF Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH presented on JHF's workforce policy goals and opportunities for 2023. In his presentation, Ferguson detailed the national healthcare workforce crisis, adding that Pennsylvania workforce shortages are among the most severe in the nation, ranking third worst for shortages in mental health professionals and third worst for nursing support staff nationally.



Nancy Zionts presents insights from the Consumer Electronics Show to the Board.

To address this issue, JHF is working to: Establish a [National Patient Safety Board](#); create a statewide healthcare workforce initiative to understand the current work conditions for frontline workers to inform JHF's statewide training initiative programs; establishing a Healthcare Workforce Command Center at the Governor's Office; and continue to brainstorm, create, and advocate for other policy solutions with the ability to have a meaningful impact across the commonwealth, such as obtaining PA Medicaid reimbursement for certified community health workers and doulas. Alaina Connor, JHF's women's health grants specialist, gave a presentation on JHF's \$9.9 million multi-year contract from the PA Department of Human Services to improve Maternal and Child Health, including a \$5 million [Maternal Care Innovation RFP](#).

JHF Chief Communications Officer Scotland Huber and Christina Graves, JD, senior manager of behavioral health planning at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (ACDHS) presented the Behavioral Health Fellows Program, an initiative in partnership with ACDHS to support those interested in gaining professional experience serving underserved populations with behavioral health needs.

Karen Wolk Feinstein and Nancy Zionts summarized their [visit to the Consumer Electronic Show \(CES\)](#) in Las Vegas. Feinstein and Zionts shared the many opportunities to experience innovations in real-time healthcare monitoring, patient and caregiver engagement and communication, diagnostics, infection prevention, support for persons living with dementia, the phenomenon of digital twins, and technology assists for frontline clinical teams. They believe that a foundation, to be truly innovative and influential, must understand how discoveries at the frontiers of health technology can help transform the prevention of disease, create new care models, ease the burden on the healthcare workforce. They've observed how the presence of the foundation community has grown at CES over the last decade.

Death & Dying Fellows Put Learnings into Practice

Despite the need for better conversations around end-of-life care that the COVID-19 pandemic brought, many practitioners still find themselves unprepared to talk about serious illness and death with patients and families. The Jewish Healthcare Foundation's 2023 Feinstein Death and Dying Fellowship aimed to address this gap. The fellowship, now in its eighth year, featured presentations and activities on a variety of topics around the end of life, culminating in a virtual session on March 27 which afforded fellows the opportunity to apply the learnings from prior sessions through role-play of serious illness conversations. Twenty-four fellows from a wide range of backgrounds engaged with a multidisciplinary faculty of experts from the field throughout the nine-week experience.



This year marked the welcome return of in-person sessions and site visits into the fellowship curriculum. Fellows visited UPMC Children's Hospital, where they learned the key aspects of pediatric care at the end of life and engaged in small-group discussions with members of the Pediatric Palliative Care and Family Dynamics Team. At UPMC Canterbury Place, the second site visit of the fellowship, students toured the long-term care facility and had the opportunity to listen to a facilitated discussion focused on conversations around end-of-life care. This enabled fellows to understand the crucial role that long-term care facilities have in end-of-life discussions.

The finale kicked off with a presentation by Robert Arnold, MD, director of the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and chief medical officer at the Palliative and Supportive Institute of UPMC Health Systems. Dr. Arnold discussed techniques for gaining comfort around having conversations with seriously ill patients, including understanding the role of emotions—for patients, families, and providers—in these discussions. He offered strategies for structuring meaningful end-of-life conversations and stressed that this skill requires continuous practice to master.

Following Dr. Arnold's presentation, fellows practiced end-of-life conversations in small groups using case scenarios. Breakout groups were facilitated by Michael Barkowski, DO, MA, internist, Division of Supportive Care/Palliative Care, Allegheny General Hospital and Wexford Hospital, Allegheny Health Network; Amie Hull, DNP, CRNP, Supervisor CRNP, UPMC Senior Communities; Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA, VP and Executive Medical Director and JHF Board member, Enterprise Palliative Care Strategy and Implementation, Highmark Health; Libby Moore, LSW, DHCE, director, Federated Guardians; Ethan Silverman, MD, Program Director, Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; and Lyn Weinberg, MD, geriatrician, Allegheny Health Network.

As the session concluded, fellows reflected on their experience with the fellowship and how the learnings will impact their future work. Fellow Jessica Jack, BS, a master student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, noted, "As a social work student looking to pursue a career in hospice, this fellowship has taught me about death in dying in multiple contexts, not just hospice care with older adults. The discussions I was able to have with professionals in the field and other disciplines through the fellowship are irreplaceable."

Annie Sun, a rehab sciences student at the University of Pittsburgh, expressed a shift in perspective as a result of participating in the fellowship: "Truthfully, death and dying was not something I had considered to be a focus for me as an EMT since my goal had always been to keep patients alive and transport them to the hospital. After learning so much of the importance of the discussion of topics like these, I feel more confident in my role as a provider to give the best care I can."

Thank you to all of the additional speakers who contributed their expertise to this Fellowship: Judy Black, MD, MHA, medical advisor, Jewish Healthcare Foundation; Theresa Brown, PhD, BSN, RN, writer, nurse, patient; Nina Butler, EdD, education consultant; Ariel Clatty, PhD, medical ethics manager, UPMC Shadyside Hospital; Rev. Richard Freeman, Sr., MSPC, physician consultant, manager of pastoral care, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Niharika Ganta, MD, medical director, Palliative Care Programs, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania & Penn Presbyterian Medical Center; Lucy Gilliam, director of nursing, UPMC Canterbury Place; Ruth Ann Guillinger, MD, physician, LIFE Pittsburgh; Betsy Hawley, executive director, Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition; Eric Horwith, MSW, LSW, regional manager, Family Hospice and UPMC Home Healthcare, adjunct professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work; Alicia Kolling, PA-C, senior advanced practice provider, Supportive Care Program, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Douglas F. Kupas, MD, FAEMS, EMS medical director, Geisinger EMS; Andrea Lurier, PhD, CT, manager, Highmark Caring Place; Carol May, RN, MSN, MBA, CHPPN, director of supportive care,

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Jennifer Gonzalez McComb, MD, MPH, FACP, clinical associate professor, Department of Medicine, Section Chief Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, UPMC Shadyside Hospital; Heather Mikes, DO, FAAHPM, director of geriatrics and palliative care, UPMC Latterman Family Health Center; Scott Miller, MD, MA, FAAHPM, chief medical officer, Family Hospice of UPMC, clinical associate professor of medicine, Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics, University of Pittsburgh; Alison O'Donnell, DO, MPH, geriatrician, Allegheny Health Network; Alyssa Osselborn, RN, unit nurse on TRU Unit, UPMC Canterbury Place; Charles (Chuck) Rhoads, MD, MBA, NHA, administrator, UPMC Canterbury Place; Tamara Sacks, MD, primary care physician, Community LIFE; Elizabeth Schandelmeier, LCSW, APHSW-C, bereavement coordinator/counselor, Family Hospice of UPMC; Jonathan Weinkle, MD, internist and pediatrician, Squirrel Hill Health Center; and Justin Yu, MD, MS, faculty, supportive care program, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh.

While the Fellowship targets graduate students, a related Death & Dying Series will be scheduled for later this fall and will be open to practitioners in the field.

JHF Long-Term Care Team Presents on Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home and more at Statewide Conference

Jewish Healthcare Foundation COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, JHF program manager, aging initiatives, and Maureen Saxon-Gioia, MSHSA, BSN, RN, nursing project manager, aging initiatives, attended the 35th annual Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration (PADONA) conference held March 28-31 in Hershey, Pa.

Zionts presented on “Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home: Implementing the Age-Friendly Nursing Home in PA, ROAD TO 100” as a part of both the conference’s administrative and clinical tracks. Cofunded by [The Henry L. Hillman Foundation](#), [Independence Foundation](#), the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, [The John A. Hartford Foundation](#), and the [PA Department of Human Services](#), the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home (RTNH) initiative implements a contemporary version of the Teaching Nursing Home model in three regions of Pennsylvania to demonstrate how enhanced partnerships between academic nursing schools and skilled nursing facilities can improve quality and cost outcomes. The session was also streamed to all the virtual participants.

At the conference, the aging team met with existing potential partners for the initiative which has plans to expand across the entire Commonwealth in the next three years.

The week-long conference included speakers and opportunities for clinicians and administrative to garner continuing educational hours to augment post-acute clinical practice and leadership skills.



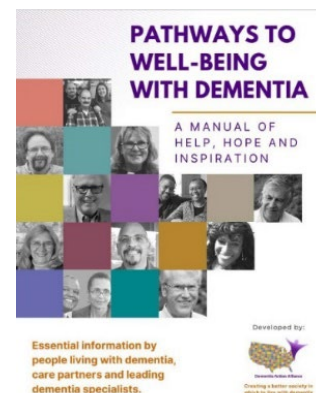
Pictured from left to right are: Maureen Saxon Gioia, Sophie Campbell, Nancy Zionts, and Anneliese Perry.

The JHF booth at PADONA featured multiple projects run by the Foundation including: RTNH, Dementia Friends, the PA LTC Learning Network and PA POLST.

Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania Partners with Dementia Action Alliance on Dementia Manual

“Pathways to Well-Being with Dementia: A Manual of Help, Hope and Inspiration” was released this month by the Dementia Action Alliance with Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania, a program of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, serving as a partner.

The in-depth, first of its kind how-to manual provides essential information about living with dementia from 48 people living with dementia, care partners, and leading dementia specialists. The manual is written primarily for the person living with dementia as the gold standard for person-centered practices and is also useful to a much wider audience, including care partners, family, friends, neighbors, advocates, community supporters, faith groups, service providers, healthcare practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and academics.

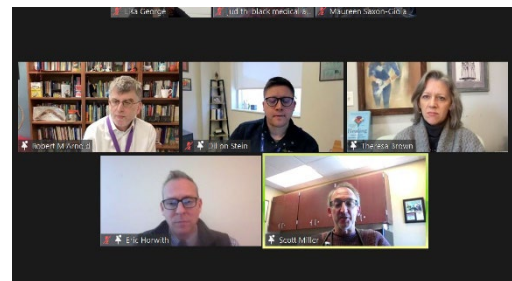


Jewish Healthcare Foundation staff Stacie L. Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L and Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, program managers for JHF aging initiatives, and Emily Franke, LSW, MSW, program associate for the JHF aging team were recognized as contributing authors of the comprehensive manual.

The 428-page [book is available](#) to download for free or printed copies are available for purchase.

The State of Hospice Care Takes Center Stage at Coalition for Quality at the End of Life Meeting

Recent controversies around issues of poor quality and fraud among for-profit hospices and current advances in the delivery of palliative care in pediatric populations were the focus of the first statewide Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL) meeting of 2023, held on March 15 via Zoom. Thirty-seven attendees from across the Commonwealth joined the meeting via Zoom, which was hosted by Jewish Healthcare Foundation COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zions, MBA, and Medical Advisor Judy Black, MD, MHA.



The topic of hospice care and issues around facility ownership, quality, and fraud has garnered much media coverage and discussion since the publication of [an investigation by ProPublica and the New Yorker](#) at the end of 2022. To address the challenges facing the industry and changes

needed to ensure quality care, the meeting featured a panel discussion moderated by Robert Arnold, MD, Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine; director, Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; medical director, UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute. Panelists included: Theresa Brown, PhD, BSN, RN, nurse, author, patient; Eric Horwith, MSW, LSW, regional manager, Family Hospice of UPMC and UPMC Home Healthcare, and adjunct professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work; Scott Miller, MD, MA, FAAHPM, chief medical officer, Family Hospice of UPMC, and clinical associate professor of medicine, Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics, University of Pittsburgh; and Dillon Stein, DO, director, Division of Palliative Care, Butler Health System. Panelists discussed the challenges inherent in the current hospice care payment model and the insufficient oversight on hospice providers, and they detailed opportunities for improving how providers communicate about hospice with patients and families.

Betsy Hawley, executive director of Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition (PPCC), shared updates on PPCC's work to advance the delivery of education and resources to the pediatric palliative care community as well as their advocacy efforts. Their monthly webinar series provides the interdisciplinary team with strategies to improve the care of children with serious illness, and an archive of more than 40 webinars is available for those seeking additional training. PPCC has developed toolkits focused on creative expression, sibling support, caring conversations, and care plans. Their caregiver support offerings include the Firefly Chat App, which enables caregivers to conveniently store information to bring to medical appointments and facilitates bimonthly conversations with caregivers and providers. PPCC also developed the content for the new [Pediatric POLST and EMS online learning module](#).

Allegheny County Medical Society Highlights the National Patient Safety Board

In a recent post on The Allegheny County Medical Society's ACMS Insights, Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) CEO and President Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, outlined the efforts of PRHI to focus on policy change at the federal level by establishing a National Patient Safety Board and to engage regional assets and investors to create a global hub for developing autonomous patient safety solutions through the Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) initiative. In the article, Dr. Feinstein calls on physicians and healthcare stakeholders to learn more about the NPSB and RAPS and to express support for these initiatives. [Read more on the ACMS website.](#)

What is the Proposed National Patient Safety Board, and How Can It Benefit Physicians?

KAREN WOLK FEINSTEIN, PhD
PRESIDENT AND CEO, JEWISH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION AND PITTSBURGH REGIONAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

1 in 4 residents have experienced a medical error

250,000 preventable medical errors reported annually

A New Federal Solution

Over the past few years, the NPSB has been working to address the issue of patient safety. The NPSB is a new federal agency that will be responsible for setting standards, monitoring progress, and providing guidance to healthcare providers. The NPSB will also be responsible for addressing systemic issues and for improving patient safety across the country.

The Burden on Providers

Healthcare providers are often the first to identify a patient safety issue. They are also the ones who are most likely to be affected by a patient safety issue. The NPSB will help to reduce the burden on providers by setting standards, monitoring progress, and providing guidance.

It's time for a National Patient Safety Board

The NPSB is a new federal agency that will be responsible for setting standards, monitoring progress, and providing guidance to healthcare providers. The NPSB will also be responsible for addressing systemic issues and for improving patient safety across the country.

ACMS Insights | March 2023

Karen Wolk Feinstein Discusses RAPS Initiative on TechVibe Radio Show

Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD was recently a guest on the Pittsburgh Technology Council radio show “TechVibe” with hosts Audrey Russo and Jonathan Kersting to discuss the Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) Initiative and the potential for Pittsburgh to be a global hub for developing autonomous solutions to prevent harm in health care. TechVibe Radio reaches across southwestern Pennsylvania every Sunday morning at 6 a.m. on KDKA. [Listen now.](#)



Karen Feinstein Receives NBME’s Edithe J. Levit Distinguished Service Award

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) awarded Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD the Edithe J. Levit Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have provided unusually valuable service to NBME, serving on several committees and for many years. The award honors Levit, who served as NBME president from 1977-1986.

Dr. Feinstein has served on the NBME since 2018 in several positions, including member-at-large (2018--2021), on the Public Stakeholders Committee (2019--2022), and on the NBME council (2022).



Karen Feinstein Named to PA City & State’s Health Care Power 100 List

Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and CEO, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, was recognized among Pennsylvania’s most influential leaders in health care on [City & State PA’s Health Care Power 100](#). This is Dr. Feinstein’s third consecutive recognition on the list since it was established in 2021.

Dr. Feinstein was also recently recognized as a member of the *Pittsburgh Business Times* [“Pittsburgh Power 100 2023.”](#) The Business Times’ Power 100 is a guide that aims to reflect who are the most influential people in Pittsburgh at this moment in time.



Organizers of *Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh* Share about its Roots

Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh, organized by co-chairs Sandra Rosen and Patricia Siger and project manager Lynn Zelenski, will bring together the arts, religious institutions, community organizations, education professionals, and musicians to focus on the diversity, equity, and inclusion in Pittsburgh, a city that has experienced the deadliest antisemitic attack in the nation's history.



Pat Siger, board member, Chair of Health Careers Futures and former Chair of JHF and Sandy Rosen began working on the project in the spring of 2018, knowing it would be a powerful experience for the community. The plans were set in motion before the massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue, the nationwide escalation of antisemitism and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of these events furthered their resolve to bring *Violins of Hope* to Pittsburgh.

The *Violins of Hope* collection is a collection of Holocaust-related string instruments that serve to educate and memorialize the lives of prisoners in concentration camps. The violins are featured through concerts, exhibitions, and other projects. Rosen was a docent for the *Violins of Hope* exhibit in Phoenix, Ariz., where Siger also spends part of the winter, and its effect inspired her to organize a Pittsburgh showing.

“When I experienced it, you saw it touch the hearts of children and adults. When 10/27 happened, it just underscored the importance to have this kind of conversation. The Pittsburgh community has embraced it with such enthusiasm and so much energy,” said Rosen. The show will bring together 50 community partners. JHF was an early funder of the exhibition, donating \$50,000.

The exhibit will be held October 7 through November 21 in Posner Center at Carnegie Mellon University. The event is free and open to the public; however, tickets are required to enter.

This landmark community project *Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh's* programming will reinforce valuable lessons of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through educational and cultural exhibits over the two months, this unique project will deploy lessons of the Holocaust to demonstrate humanity's amazing ability to rebound from even the darkest depravity. The centerpiece of this event is the *Violins of Hope* Exhibit, showcasing violins played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. Each instrument has a unique history that tells an emotional story of hope and perseverance.

One of the main goals of *Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh* is to educate both young and old in the community by using stories from the past to shed light on the future. A special emphasis will be placed on comprehensive in-school programming for middle- and high-school students. Group tours will be available, and time will be set aside for school group tours.

“We are all human beings. We share the same emotions – we love, we hate, we celebrate, we fear, we conquer. Nevertheless, if we don’t recognize that we’re all the same, then we can be overtaken by hate, which is insidious, poisonous, and dangerous,” Siger said.

For more information about *Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh*, including volunteer opportunities and program updates, visit violinsofhopepittsburgh.com.

JHF Sponsors Pittsburgh Arts & Lecture Event with Dr. Emily Kline

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is the presenting sponsor of a conversation with Emily Kline, PhD on Tuesday, April 4 at 6 p.m. as part of the Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures Made Local Series at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall. The lecture is a free event, and in person and virtual tickets are available [here](#).

Emily Kline, PhD, author of the soon to be released book, [*The School of Hard Talks, How to have Conversations with Your \(Almost Grown\) Kids*](#), a practical, engaging guide to help adults and parents connect and communicate with youth people.

Dr. Kline, a clinical psychologist and writer, grew up in Pittsburgh and worked for Jewish Residential Services in Squirrel Hill and in psychiatric research at the University of Pittsburgh. She then went on to graduate degrees at the University of Maryland, a fellowship at Harvard Medical School, and faculty appointments at Harvard and Boston University. She is the recipient of a career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health. She has published dozens of articles appearing in a range of peer-reviewed scholarly journals, textbooks, and popular magazines, and she has spoken with audiences all over the world about mental health and interpersonal communication.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Squirrel Hill will also hold a conversation with Dr. Kline from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, April 5. [Register here](#) for this event.



JHF Welcomes new Behavioral Health Project Manager Bridget McNamee

Bridget McNamee, MID, will serve as the behavioral health project manager, overseeing the implementation of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's role in the Behavioral Health Fellows Program, a program working to enhance the region's capacity to address behavioral health needs through workforce development. Prior to joining the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Ms. McNamee spent more than 10 years at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services where she managed behavioral health special projects, including program design and implementation, quality improvement initiatives, planning and reporting, and management of behavioral health-focused advisory boards. She has also spent time working in higher education and at a local nonprofit that works with young people from Ireland and Northern Ireland. She earned a bachelor's degree in behavioral neuroscience from Chatham University and a Master of International Development from the University of Pittsburgh.



Fellowship Alumni Spotlight: Gabriella Agostaro

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Fellowship Alumni Spotlight series showcases some of the many incredible alumni of the Feinstein Fellowships.

[In this video](#), 2022 Death and Dying Fellowship & Patient Safety Fellowship alumna Gabriella Agostaro currently serves as an intern for the Aging and Long-Term Care Team at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. She is a Ph.D.

candidate in the healthcare ethics program at Duquesne University with research interests focused on end-of-life care, pain management, and the equitable treatment of patients with psychiatric conditions. She received her Master of Business Administration in 2021 and her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 2018. In her spare time, she volunteers as the New Member Education Advisor for Theta Phi Alpha Sorority. Over the past 17 years, over 1,200 individuals have participated in a Feinstein Fellowship program, including the Death & Dying Fellowship, the Patient Safety Fellowship, the QIT Fellowship, and Salk Health Activist Fellowship. Watch



For additional information about how you can participate in the Feinstein Fellowships, please contact Ashlee Carter at carter@jhf.org or [learn more here](#).

Daniel Wolfson Leads Transformational Efforts for Improved Healthcare Delivery

"I grew up in the 60s and went to college in the early 70s. So from the very beginning, I wanted to change society," Daniel Wolfson said of his decades long career.

A sociology and psychology major at Boston University, Wolfson was involved in volunteer work at a state hospital. That work led to a position as a case aid assistant at Mass General on the rehabilitation floor, working with amputees and patients recovering from spinal cord injuries and strokes. In that position, his first job, he was introduced to multiple disciplines of practice and found that very few practitioners were discussing their patients and collaborating to organize their care.



"There were PTs, OTs, nurses, doctors, psychologists, social workers. Why weren't they meeting as a team? They're all treating the same patients. So that was my first entrée into administrative thinking," Wolfson said.

Inspired by this work, he would go on to receive his master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. "I've only ever had three jobs," Wolfson said.

Wolfson was the Director of Planning and Research at the Fallon Community Health Plan. During that time, he led the product development team that launched the nation's first Medicare risk contract with the Health Care Financing Administration.

Wolfson served for nearly two decades as the founding President and CEO of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (formerly The HMO Group), the nation's leading association of not-for-profit and provider-sponsored health plans. During his tenure, Wolfson earned national recognition for spearheading the development of the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS™ which is now referred to as the Health Effectiveness Data and Information Set) and co-sponsoring the *Journal of Effective Clinical Practice* with the American College of Physicians.

"My philosophy is that in order to change the healthcare system, you need to integrate payment and redesign of the delivery system with an emphasis on primary care. Within a group practice model, the health plan could provide data and infrastructure that would support physicians' care of their patients, while also being cognizant of care utilization and quality, as well as patient safety," Wolfson said.

He has served for 22 years as Executive Vice President and COO of the ABIM Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation focused on advancing medical professionalism and physician leadership to improve the healthcare system. The ABIM Foundation was one of the earliest supporters of the National Patient Safety Board Advocacy Coalition.

This year he celebrates 11 years of Choosing Wisely®, the ABIM Foundation initiative with a lofty goal to improve healthcare by encouraging clinicians to have meaningful conversations with their patients to avoid unnecessary tests and procedures, many of which offer little benefit and, in some

cases, do more harm than good. The Choosing Wisely campaign began as a partnership with nine physician specialty societies that collectively published 45 recommendations intended to discourage unnecessary care, and has since grown into an internationally-recognized campaign, inspiring similar efforts in more than 30 countries. It now includes more than 80 clinical society partners, with organizations representing physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, and other clinicians outside of allopathic medicine.

“Through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we worked directly with 14 health systems, each of which implemented at least three recommendations. All 14 worked to reduce the number of prescriptions of antibiotics for adults with respiratory infections and all 14 achieved reductions, with 12 lowering their utilization by more than 20 percent,” Wolfson said.

More recently, a [2021 study](#) of 130 articles on *Choosing Wisely* shows the effectiveness of implementing recommendations through multi-component interventions – for example, feedback, order sets, alerts, clinical champions and clinical pathways. But there is still more to do. Trust between patients and clinicians is a critical component to enable these important conversations about tests and treatments.

Wolfson has refocused his expertise and passion on ABIM Foundation’s Building Trust initiative which is addressing the mistrust – particularly among populations who have been historically marginalized – facing the healthcare system. Building Trust is a three-pronged strategy to: Convene leaders to have conversations on the importance of trust; help develop research on the evidence that trust impacts performance; and identify best practices and behaviors that drive trust. The aim is to elevate trust as an essential organizing principle for improving healthcare.

“I always have fun at work and I believe in trying to be on the cutting edge of innovation. I’ve been lucky to find myself in that position,” Wolfson added.

When asked what’s next for patient safety, Wolfson said “moral leadership” and people like Dr. Karen Feinstein, who are insisting on incentivizing patient safety, regulating it if necessary, and advocating for using data to make actionable progress in healthcare.

A long-time friend, colleague, and collaborator of and with Dr. Feinstein and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Wolfson said, “She has an amazing sense of how to build coalitions, how to move things forward, a real dedication to quality and safety. She’s a charismatic leader. She’s been persistent and has persevered. And she’s shown a lot of vision and leadership all the way down the road. I’ve always been a fan of hers and a collaborator with her.”

JHF Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

