



**May 2023 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more**

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## RAPS Advisory Board Holds First Meeting to Discuss Forward Momentum

The first “hybrid” meeting of the Pittsburgh Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) Advisory Group was held May 2, gathering leaders from academia, health care, technology, and industry to inform the forward movement of the RAPS initiative.

At their first meeting, the group discussed opportunities for federal grants to fund innovation, topics for Patient Safety Research & Development Salons, and suggestions for Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) proposals that would engage local expertise to advance revolutionary technology to prevent medical errors.



Members gather for the first RAPS Advisory Group meeting.

The Advisory Board heard from potential partners on the proposed RAPS economic analysis project. Recently, the JHF Board approved \$100,000 to commission a study to forecast the number of jobs that could be created or retained if the region deployed its world-renowned strength in autonomous technologies to prevent medical errors.

The JHF Board also approved a [RAPS Seed Grant](#) Program that is anticipated to open in June or July. The \$200,000 Seed Grant Program will provide early-stage grants to multidisciplinary R&D teams, start-ups, or tech companies in the Pittsburgh region to spark the design, development, and testing of autonomous solutions to prevent medical errors.

Pittsburgh Regional Autonomous Patient Safety Advisory Group members include:

- Michael Becich, MD, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for Informatics in the Health Sciences, Chairman and Professor, Department of Biomedical Informatics, PaTH Clinical Data Research Network PI/PD and Informatics Lead (co-chair)
- Rich Cancelliere, Founder and CEO, Treatspace
- Karen Feinstein, PhD, President and CEO, Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
- Frank Guyette, MD, MS, MPH, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Medical Director of STAT MedEvac
- Jim Jen, MBA, Founder, AlphaLab accelerators

- Sandra Kane-Gill, PharmD, MS, Interim Chair and Professor, Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh
- Ari Lightman, MS, MBA, Professor of Digital Media and Marketing and Commercialization Advisor for the Center for Machine Learning and Health
- Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA, Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Preoperative Medicine, UPMC, University of Pittsburgh
- Christian Manders, COO, Promethean LifeSciences, Inc.
- Sean McDonald, MBA, MSc, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, CMU Swartz Center for Entrepreneurship
- Leeana McKibben, MSN, RN, Chief of Staff and Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Administration, University of Pittsburgh
- Alefiyah Mesiwala, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, Humana Government Business
- Kay Métis, MS, MA, Executive Director, Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Department of Biomedical Informatics, University of Pittsburgh
- Co-chair -- Paul Phrampus, MD, Director, Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research (WISER), Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Anesthesiology, Medical Director, Patient Safety, UPMC Health System, Medical Director, Donald D. Wolff Jr. Center for Quality, Safety & Innovation
- Lindsey Ronneberg, MBA, Senior Director, Global Quality and Product Services, Omnicell
- Audrey Russo, MPA, President and CEO, Pittsburgh Technology Council
- Lucy Savitz, PhD, MBA, Professor, Health Policy and Management, Senior Innovation Advisor, UPMC Health Plan & Center for Health-Value Health Care, University of Pittsburgh
- Steve Wray, MS, Executive Director, CMU Block Center for Technology and Society
- Shandong Wu, PhD, Director, Pittsburgh Center for AI Innovation in Medical Imaging, University of Pittsburgh

## JHF and the Pittsburgh Technology Council to Continue Partnership on RAPS Initiative

FortyX80 and the Pittsburgh Technology Council (PTC) will continue to serve as critical collaborators with the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation in advancing the Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) initiative through a series of features, stories, and interviews in their publications during the upcoming year. A JHF grant to FortyX80 will support content on existing innovators and activities in Pittsburgh and detail the opportunity for advanced technology in health care to prevent errors.



The RAPS initiative was formally launched on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Carnegie Mellon University in partnership with the Pittsburgh Technology Council, Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Digital

Health Innovation, the Center for Military Medicine Research, and the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Biomedical Informatics. This launch event included regional stakeholders across academia, health care, life sciences, technology, industry, and government. The inaugural gathering sought to galvanize new partnerships to build an economy around healthcare safety and establish Pittsburgh as a global hub for development of autonomous patient safety technologies.

This effort builds on the past partnership with FortyX80 and PTC to raise awareness on technology solutions to current problems and adverse events in the U.S. healthcare system.

## JHF Convenes Maternal Health Innovation Grant Advisory Board

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is serving as the fiscal agent for the PA Department of Human Services, charged with helping to allocate over \$9 million in federal COVID funding intended for maternal and infant health. JHF recently established the Maternal Health Innovation Grant Advisory Board, a group of 18 experts and practitioners across Pennsylvania working in maternal health, social work, policy, midwifery, public health, minority health, and grantmaking. The advisory board is tasked with reviewing applications and making funding decisions for the \$5 million [Maternal Care Innovation RFP](#) as a part of this multi-year contract.



Proposals are now being accepted for innovative maternal care programs to advance maternal health outcomes toward the goal of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and supporting new families in Pennsylvania. Grants can be used to fund infrastructure, information technology, staffing, services, materials, and other investments that promise to benefit pregnant people and/or new families.

Co-chairs of the advisory board are Sindhu K. Srinivas, MD, MSCE, a practicing physician, vice Chair for Quality and Safety, Department OBGYN, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and Doris Carson Wilson, president and CEO, African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania.

The Maternal Health Innovation Grant Advisory Board includes:

- Amanda Flicker, MD, PA Section of ACOG, Chair, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Obstetrics, Lehigh Valley Health Network
- Elissa Concini, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, Quality and Safety RN for OB/GYN, Geisinger
- Maria Kolcharno, LSW, Director of Addiction Services (Healthy MOMS), The Wright Center for Community Health
- Sara Goulet, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

- Sindhu K. Srinivas, MD, MSCE, Vice Chair for Quality and Safety, Department OB/GYN, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Medicine
- Joanne Craig, MS, Chief Impact Officer, Foundation for Delaware County
- Marcellas Taylor, Director for Health Equity, Partnership for Better Health
- Anne Marie Healy, Executive Director, Philadelphia Health Partnership
- Aasta D. Mehta, MD, MPP, Medical Officer of Women's Health, Department of Public Health, City of Philadelphia
- Melissa Patti, MSW, LCSW, Director, Maternal Infant Health, March of Dimes, PA Philadelphia Market
- Kenya Boswell, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs, Highmark Foundation
- Jessica Ruffin, Deputy Director, Office of Equity and Engagement, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Dannai Wilson, Deputy Director, Community and Family Health, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Rosamaria Costello, Founder and Executive Director, Latino Community Center
- Emily McGahey, DM, MSN, CNM, FACNM, Clinical Director, Midwife Center of Pittsburgh
- Janet Catov, PhD, MS, Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation
- Harold Miller, President & CEO, Center for Health Quality and Payment Reform

A conflict-of-interest recusal model will be employed during this process. A potential applicant for this funding may still serve on the review committee provided that they acknowledge any potential conflict of interest and recuse themselves from reviewing any relevant proposal(s).

JHF staff is responsible for gathering applications for the advisory board's review and providing eligibility checks to ensure the application meets funding criteria, ensuring that funding is available to support the request, and facilitating any requests for additional information from the applicant.

The committee will convene every two months to review and rank proposals. The first eligibility review for the Maternal Health Innovation Grant will begin in June with the advisory board convening in late July or early August.

Proposals are being accepted on a rolling basis with up to 10 proposals being reviewed per cycle for Maternal Care Innovation grants ranging between \$15,000 - \$100,000. JHF began its RFP in April and will continue to consider applications under this RFP through April 30, 2024 or until funding is fully expended. More details and application [available here](#).

## The Friendship Circle's The Beacon Opens in Squirrel Hill

The Friendship Circle held an open house on May 16 for The Beacon, the new teen wellness and community space with a focus on uplifting and supporting the well-being and mental health of all teens in the Pittsburgh area.

In September 2021, JHF approved a two-year, [\\$100,000 grant to The Friendship Circle](#) in support of the creation of The Beacon as a drop-in community space where teens can access stigma-free wellness support and connection with peers.



Teens inside The Beacon.

Located at 1926 Murray Ave., The Beacon is a 2,000 square foot, fully accessible space offering inclusive and free group programming on mindfulness, self-expression through the creative arts, developing self-advocacy skills, finding purpose, setting boundaries, handling anxiety and depression, and more. When necessary, The Beacon will provide access and referrals to therapeutic support on an individualized basis.

“The opening of The Beacon could not come at a more opportune time to increase support for the youth in our community,” said Karen Wolk Feinstein. “The teen mental health crisis continues to demand more resources, and The Beacon immediately addresses the need for accessible, community-based support. It is the fulfilment of a dream to see a drop-in community space for teens and I hope it will become a model for other areas of our city.”



Pictured from left to right: Rivkee Rudolph, Rabbi Mordy Rudolph, Danny Rosen, Karen Wolk Feinstein, and Debra Caplan.

The Beacon was inspired by [Headspace](#), a youth mental health model in Australia that sparked the interest of Karen Feinstein, Deb Caplan and Nancy Zionts on the Foundation's 2018 Australian study tour. During that trip, tour participants were very impressed that the Australian government supports over 100 Headspace drop-in centers (now over 150) for teens seeking immediate counseling or support in a friendly setting. Australia's extraordinary commitment to investing in its youth inspired JHF to create a similar space in Pittsburgh, maybe seeding a movement.

The recent advisory from U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy underlines why youth mental health initiatives like The Beacon are more important than ever. Dr. Murthy urged community organizations to address the mental health needs of young people.

Starting in September 2023, The Beacon will function during after-school and evening hours Monday through Thursday. Over the

summer, The Beacon will host several events in their new space. More information about The Beacon is [available here](#).

Read more about The Beacon’s opening in [this Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle article](#).

## Teen Mental Health Proclamations Signed by Governor Josh Shapiro, City of Pittsburgh, & County Commissioners Across the State

The PA Youth Advocacy Network recognized May 23<sup>rd</sup> as Teen Mental Health Awareness Day with a proclamation from Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro.

Youth advocates also were present virtually and in person at meetings across the Commonwealth as their proclamation was passed and recognized by commissioners in [Allegheny](#), Berks, Chester, Luzerne, and Montgomery counties. The proclamations were drafted by high school students of the PA Youth Advocacy Network.

The proclamations raised awareness of the percentage of youth in the county and across the state who report feeling sad most days in the past 12 months or had seriously considered suicide, while also combatting stigma by using their platform to share the message that “being diagnosed with a mental health condition is not a weakness, or something to be ashamed of, and it is important to recognize that anyone can experience poor mental wellbeing and deserves to be shown care and compassion to ensure comfort in reaching out for help.”



Pictured from left to right: Brooklyn Williams, Brynne McSorley, Minji Kim, and Mohammad Shedeed.



Youth advocates, Allegheny County Council members, and JHF staff Robert Ferguson, Deborah Murdoch, and Sarah Pesi take a picture to commemorate Teen Mental Health Awareness Day.

Youth advocates elevated their platform on Teen Mental Health Awareness Day calling for mental health education in schools, excused mental health days, and for teens to be welcomed to the table to be heard in the policymaking process.

Since 2018, the PA Youth Advocacy Network, a program of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, has activated youth and adults across Pittsburgh and

Pennsylvania to call for change and promote teen mental health with skills-building and advocacy opportunities.

This is the third year in which Teen Mental Health Awareness Day has been recognized with proclamations authored by PA Youth Advocacy Network youth advocates: Mohammad Shedeed, Brooklyn Williams, Brynne McSorley, Mary Zagrocki, Ja’Nya Coleman, Minji Kim, Emily Kwon, Mia Bella, Ishani Bansal, Vanesa Aguay, Tyler Nolt, Anna Chong, and Giavanna Cella.

## The Jewish Chronicle Publishes Jewish Healthcare Foundation Op-Ed on the Need for Investment in the Mental Health System

The pandemic’s effects on youth mental health and the need for increased services and supports was recently highlighted in a *Jewish Chronicle* op-ed [“The time is now to invest in the mental health system”](#) by Jewish

Healthcare Foundation Policy Associate Sarah Pesí, MSPPM. In the op-ed, Pesí discusses: Youth interest in increasing peer support and student-led initiatives; how the new BH Fellows program was established as a response to workforce needs; and how community initiatives like the Teen Mental Health Collaborative, Friendship Circle’s The Beacon, and JFCS’ UpStreet formed as a response to a current crisis. [Read the op-ed.](#)



## Dr. Emily Kline Shares Expertise for Engaging Youth in Difficult Conversations

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation sponsored a conversation with Emily Kline, PhD on May 11 as part of the Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures Made Local Series at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall.

At the Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures series event, Dr. Kline was introduced by Dr. Mindy Hutchinson, a JHF Board member and child and adolescent psychiatry specialist. During the lecture, Dr. Kline discussed her new book [The School of Hard Talks, How to have Conversations with Your \(Almost Grown\) Kids](#), a practical, engaging guide to help families connect and communicate with young people, and took questions from the audience. A video recording of the lecture is [available here](#).



Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures Executive Director Stephanie Flom, left, takes questions from the audience for Dr. Emily Kline.



Families and community organizations listen to Dr. Kline speak at The Friendship Circle.

A clinical psychologist and writer, Dr. Kline 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 with degrees at the University of Maryland, a fellowship at Harvard Medical School, and faculty appointments at Harvard and Boston University.

A conversation with Dr. Kline was held at The Friendship Circle earlier on May 11 with members of community organizations, families, and parents learning Dr. Kline’s method of motivational interviewing and providing tools for difficult conversations. As noted by Sarah Pesi, MSPPM, JHF policy associate, providing families with skills like those Dr. Kline shared is becoming

increasingly important as they often act as the safety net when the mental health system fails.

## PA PQC Annual Meeting Discusses Progress and Next Steps

The Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative held its annual meeting May 4 at the Hilton in Harrisburg. With approximately 140 attendees, it was the first in-person annual meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme of the annual meeting was “continuum of care” and emphasized the work of healthcare teams who have committed to quality improvement initiatives within their hospitals, encouraging them to visualize how to expand quality improvement work beyond the hospital to collaborations with community organizations and agencies.



Akbar Hossain speaks at the May 4<sup>th</sup> PA PQC meeting in Harrisburg.

Presentations included: A PA PQC data update by Aasta Mehta, MD, MPP, and James A. Cook, MD, PA PQC Advisory Group co-chairs; maternal and child health policy priorities and feedback from PA PQC healthcare teams and stakeholders by Akbar Hossain, Secretary of Policy and Planning, PA Office of the Governor; and “Eating an Elephant: Application of Quality Improvement Tools to Pursue Big Aims Through Small Steps of Change by Jane Colwell, MSN, RN, Senior Director Women’s Quality and Patient Safety, Carilion Clinic Lead.

David B. Nelson, MD, FACOG, gave the keynote address “Extending Maternal Care after Pregnancy (eMCAP): An Initiative to Address Health Care Disparities and Enhance Access to Care After Delivery. Dr. Nelson holds the Gillette Professorship of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is the Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Car Chief, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and an

Associate Professor, Maternal-Fetal Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His presentation materials are [available here](#).

Regional breakout sessions were also held, providing an opportunity for providers to network, share, and discuss outcomes.

A new addition to this year's annual meeting was poster presentations from PA PQC Healthcare Teams who shared their work on substance use disorder, substance-exposed newborns, Immediate Postpartum Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (IPLARC), maternal depression, and severe hypertension initiatives.

To keep the momentum of its annual meeting, the PA PQC will host monthly virtual regional meetings with healthcare teams, agencies and organizations in each of its five regions, continuing with the theme of "Continuum of Care."

## Too Hot for July Takes to the Streets June 1

Too Hot for July (TH4J), Pittsburgh's only HIV awareness event, will be held Thursday, June 1, honoring those lost to, living with, and affected by HIV, and to educate the community about advancements in prevention and treatment that can end the epidemic.

The annual HIV awareness event, held on Hamilton Avenue in Larimer, is free and hosted by [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#), in partnership with [True T Pgh](#). The event will feature a twerk off and vogue battle judged by Pittsburgh Ballroom legends, free HIV/STD testing, health information and activities, and on-site health professionals to answer questions about HIV and general wellness.



The hosts are Wadria Taylor, Naheen Binion, and Pissy. In addition to nationally known artist [DreamDoll](#), the street party will showcase premiere Pittsburgh DJs, musical performers and artists including: Pillz, Auntie Chanel, Huny, Joshua Orange, Manny Dibachi, 412Step, Lexa Terrestrial, and Alumni Theatre Company.

Free HIV and STD testing and other wellness services will be provided by Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health and Allies for Health + Wellbeing. Healthcare professionals will be on site to answer questions about HIV prevention, treatment, and general wellness.

Too Hot For July is FREE and open to the public. Click [here](#) for a recap of last year's event. For more information, visit [AFP's Facebook page](#).

## JHF Hosts Minority AIDS Initiative Learning Session in Pittsburgh

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation's HIV/AIDS Team hosted its Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Learning Session in Pittsburgh on April 25-26, bringing together 22 outreach workers from 11 agencies across the state. The purpose of this session was to provide a space for agencies to share best practices around outreach strategies to re-engage individuals who are lost-to-care and network with one another to form new collaborations.



HIV/AIDS Teens Minority AIDS Initiative Learning Session meeting.

During the first day of the session, JHF staff and guest speakers facilitated discussions on HIV clinical updates and how these updates relate to addressing barriers to care through outreach work, recent guideline updates to perinatal care and infant feeding, and advertising and development of media campaigns for HIV services. A representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Health also joined to provide updates to upcoming statewide initiatives and the Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program. Additionally, the session included interactive activities including a Vogue 101 workshop, where attendees learned the history of vogue and some basic vogue dance moves.

On the second day of the session, the MAI attendees were joined by 17 case managers and community health workers, representing eight agencies, from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Ryan White Learning Collaborative. MAI and Ryan White agency representatives learned about organizational and individual safety practices that they can apply in their day-to-day work in the communities they serve. JHF also facilitated a speed networking session to allow MAI and Ryan White regional providers to network and learn from their peers.

At the end of the two-day training, attendees had established new connections and collaborations, and left with an excitement to continue to network and learn from each other.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation hosts in-person MAI Learning Sessions twice per year and plans to host the Fall 2023 session in Philadelphia.

## Karen Feinstein Speaks on Patient Safety Panel at UPMC Shadyside M&M Conference

Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, served as a speaker at the Department of Medicine Morbidity and Mortality Conference at UPMC Shadyside on May 25.

The M&M Conference is a traditional, recurring conference held by medical services at academic medical centers providing an intense,



detailed review of the care delivered to patients where patient safety issues have occurred.

Karen was asked to discuss the founding of PRHI, current patient safety initiatives, and her perspective on promising solutions. Other speakers defined patient safety and provided their viewpoint on how physicians, hospitals and the larger healthcare community approach safety. David J. Levenson, MD, served as convener.

Lisa Donahue, RN, director of Patient's Safety for UPMC Shadyside, presented safety issues at the hospital for specific discussion among participants, before the conversation focused on the larger healthcare community's view of key patient safety issues and a national perspective of health care, including the establishment of the [National Patient Safety Board \(NPSB\)](#).

## Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative Celebrates Successes During Final Grant Review

The COVID-19 pandemic wrought unprecedented challenges for nursing homes, and the already-strained workforce has been pushed to the point of crisis. Through a two-year pilot project, the [Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative](#) aimed to address many of the challenges made worse by the pandemic. As the pilot is concluding, Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Aging Team staff and project partners convened virtually on May 30 to reflect on two years of progress. As part of the final site evaluation for the pilot project with lead funder The John A. Hartford Foundation, the convening provided an opportunity to showcase the ongoing collaborations between nursing homes and schools of nursing established during year two of the grant.



JHF's Aging Team facilitates the virtual grant review.

Hosted by The John A. Hartford Foundation President Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Vice President of Programs Rani E. Snyder, MPA, the presentation was facilitated by JHF staff. Forty-one project participants and partners joined the virtual meeting. JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, thanked The John A. Hartford Foundation and project participants for their work to enhance the skilled nursing workforce and elevate the level of care provided to residents of these facilities.

JHF COO and Chief Program Officer and RTNH Primary Investigator Nancy Zions, MBA, presented an overview and progress on the four aims of the initiative: (1) improve resident outcomes, (2) enrich clinical skills of nursing home staff, promote retention, (3) enhance faculty and student knowledge of nursing home care, and (4) track organizational and regulatory barriers and practices. Drawing upon existing resources from the Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative, the project exposed both nursing home staff and nursing school faculty to the 4Ms of the careforce (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility) and achieved the goals of improving clinical care for nursing home residents, providing the nursing home careforce with tools to improve resident care and to provide valuable clinical experiences for nursing students, and strengthening nursing home placement opportunities for students. As a result of this effort, 591 residents have received Age-Friendly Health Systems care; 677

nursing home staff members have been trained on the 4Ms, and 510 nursing students have engaged with the 4Ms in the nursing home.

Another marker of success was the integration of Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home and Age-Friendly Health Systems education to all nursing homes across Pennsylvania via the PA Long-Term Care Learning Network during the first quarter of programming for 2023. National experts in Age-Friendly Health Systems and each of the four nursing home partners presented best on practices during weekly webinars to further disseminate the learnings from the pilot project, reaching 2,245 nursing home staff at more than 200 nursing homes.

In this second year of the pilot, the focus expanded to emphasize APRN consultation and leadership development, dissemination of initial success, and effecting change beyond the participating regions via policy and advocacy. Partnerships were developed with the Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration and Pennsylvania Higher Education Nursing Schools Association, further strengthening the initiative's reach across the Commonwealth. Additionally, this work led to the formation of the Moving Forward Coalition, created to advance policy based on the recommendations contained in the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report *The National Imperative to Improve Nursing Home Quality*. Finally, a partnership with More of a Good Thing, a program of AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, is facilitating application of the 4Ms to the nursing home careforce.

During a panel discussion featuring representatives from participating nursing facilities (UPMC Canterbury Place, The Willows Presbyterian SeniorCare, Centre Care Rehabilitation and Wellness, and Wesley Enhanced Living Mainline, participants reflected on how their involvement in the pilot has reinvigorated their staff and empowered them to make meaningful changes in how they care for their residents. The creation, expansion, and renewal of relationships with schools of nursing has set the foundation for ongoing practice–academic partnerships. Maureen Saxon-Gioia, MS HSA, RN, JHF nurse project manager, moderated the panel.

Curriculum Taskforce Co-Chairs Ann Kolanowski, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor emerita in the Ross and Carol Nece College of Nursing at Pennsylvania State University, JoAnne Reifsnnyder, PhD, MSN, MBA, FAAN, professor at University of Maryland School of Nursing, and Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior advisor for aging at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and chair of the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Statewide and National Advisory Group, discussed how the project has helped to optimize academic preparation and training for the current and future nursing home careforce and shared exciting news about a new nursing home curriculum textbook, edited and authored by many of the partners in this initiative, that will be published this fall.

In a second panel discussion, representatives from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, the Ross and Carol Nece College of Nursing at the Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing shared their experiences on establishing strong linkages with nursing facilities and increasing student engagement through meaningful clinical placements. As a result of the initiative, schools of nursing have expanded education on geriatrics and are collaborating with nursing home staff on curriculum enhancements. Jackie Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN, JHF nursing leadership advisor, Aging Initiatives, facilitated the panel.

Steven Handler, MD, PhD, associate chief of staff for geriatrics and associate GRECC director at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is serving as the external evaluator for year two of the pilot and

provided initial feedback on the initiative’s outcomes. A final report on the site visit will incorporate input from Dr. Handler and The John A. Hartford Foundation.

## Dementia Friendly Webinar to Be Held June 16

A Dementia Friendly Webinar on “Bringing a Community Together” will be held on June 16 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This webinar is for those who are interested in starting a Dementia-Friendly Community in their area. Attendees will learn: What it takes to become a dementia-friendly community; how communities across the globe are making a difference; actionable steps to create a dementia-friendly community with support from Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania. [Click here](#) to register.



On May 19 Dementia Friends held a webinar titled “Grief, Loss and Dementia” with three expert speakers: Elizabeth Schandelmeier, LCSW, APHSW-C, Elka Kazmierczak, PhD, MA, and Itzel Estrada-Galicia, a member of the Youth Movement Against Alzheimer’s Operations Advisory Team. Two care partners also shared their experiences. Over 60 people from 34 counties across Pennsylvania and from nine other states were in attendance.

## Stacie Bonenberger Serves as Patient Safety Judge for AHN MI Trainee Research Day

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Aging Initiatives Program Manager Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L, served as judge for the Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Medical Institute (MI) Trainee Research Day on May 3. Trainee Research Day is an annual poster competition for residents and fellows in the MI.

Begun in 2013, the competition is an opportunity to showcase the work of learners at AHN and the importance research and scholarship plays in the training of future physicians. Bonenberger served as a judge in the Quality Improvement/Patient Safety category, reviewing the 10 finalists in the category with Molly A. Fisher, MD and James B. Reilly, MD.



Judges engage with a participant at AHN MI Trainee Research Day.

Winners in the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety category were: First place, Dr. Sheldon Rao, PCCM Fellow, “Oxygen Script Test - Do All My Patients Need It?;” second place, Dr. Max Jacobs, IM Resident, “Real-world Analysis of a Low-Barrier Beta-Lactam Allergy Assessment Protocol Managed by an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program;” and third place, Dr. Arinze Bosah, IM Resident, “Heart Failure Patients Managed by Primary Care Physicians Alone are Less Likely to Reach Target Doses of Guideline-Directed Medical Therapy.”

## Patient Safety Technology Challenge Highlights from May Competitions

During May, the Patient Safety Technology Challenge saw some of its sponsored competitions run their program and award new patient safety winners.

The first of these events, the Patient Safety Technology Challenge-sponsored Healthcare Innovation Sprint co-hosted by The Conductor, Arkansas IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellent (INBRE), Conway Regional Health System, University of Central Arkansas, and BioVentures, took place on campus at the University of Central Arkansas. The competition guided students through a four-day training program, May 15<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>, where they learned about healthcare innovation and patient safety.



Team Uroglo is pictured with their prize.

The finale was a demo night where students pitched their innovative tech-enabled patient safety solutions to a panel of five judges which included Dr. Fuchiang (Rich) Tsui, director of Tsui Laboratory and endowed chair in Biomedical Informatics and Entrepreneurial Science at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute. Dr. Tsui serves on the Patient Safety Technology Challenge advisory board.

The winning idea was formed by a team of three students, who received a \$2,500 prize to help them scale their innovative tech-enabled patient safety solution, Uroglo.

Uroglo focuses on the early detection of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI). The novel solution they dreamt up coats the inside of urine collection bags with a hydrogel infused with bacteriophages that will glow under UV when harmful bacteria that cause CAUTI are identified.

The second event in May was MIT's Critical Datathon which provided a unique lens of health equity to the Patient Safety Technology Challenge. The datathon paired students from underrepresented groups in the Boston-area to health equity investigators across several disciplines, including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and health equity.



Participants of MIT's Critical Datathon, pictured, include some of the Providence, Mass. Students from Bunker Hill Community College.

The student–professional teams were charged with identifying correction models for pulse oximetry; patients of color often experience falsely elevated oxygen readings due to limitations in how pulse oximeters have been designed.

At the end, the teams presented what they were able to accomplish and the challenges they faced. No winner or prize money was given, instead this was an opportunity for acquiring knowledge, collaborating, learning new skills, and presenting what they were able to achieve as a team and what they see as opportunities for the future.

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

## Patient Safety Technology Challenge Announces New Competition

A new competition kicked off this month as part of the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#). A brand new competition, [Patient Safety Technology Trailblazer](#), is being hosted by OSF Healthcare, a non-profit Catholic healthcare organization that operates 15 hospitals and other facilities in Illinois and Michigan.



The competition invites University of Illinois College of Medicine medical students and OSF residents and fellows to submit ideas about how they can leverage technology, such as: AI, augmented reality, virtual reality, and robotics, to reduce medical errors that harm patients. They will focus on addressing five problem categories including medication-related errors, fall prevention, procedural and surgical-related errors, healthcare-associated infections, and diagnostic errors. The competition kicked off May 22 and winners will be announced at the end of August.

## Allegheny County Medical Society Published an Update on POLST Legislation

In a recent post on The Allegheny County Medical Society's ACMS Insights, Jewish Healthcare Foundation Senior Communications and Program Specialist Lisa George, MPH, CHES, provided an update on the introduction of Senate Bill 631, which would codify the Pennsylvania Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) for use by



medical professionals across all healthcare settings to document treatment wishes for patients who voluntarily wish to execute a POLST order. [Read more on the ACMS website.](#)

## JHF Welcomes Aging Initiatives Program Specialist Chelsea Dickson

Chelsea Dickson, MPH will serve as a program specialist on the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Aging Initiatives team. In her role, she will support the Teaching Nursing Home initiative, Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania, and related aging, communications, and policy efforts. Prior to the Foundation, Dickson completed FleishmanHillard's graduate development program in corporate communications before joining Bliss Integrated Communication, where she worked on communications for a multinational tax, accounting, and consulting firm. At the social impact organization Understood, Chelsea's communications work focused on providing expert-vetted information to individuals with learning disabilities as well as their families, teachers, and employers. This work encompassed media relations, developing content and messaging about special education and disability inclusion, and supporting a bilingual, national awareness campaign for early identification of learning disabilities. She earned her bachelor's degree in English and professional writing from Carnegie Mellon University and her Master of Public Health degree in health policy and management from the University of Pittsburgh.



## Summer 2023 Intern Cohort Brings Diverse Academic Backgrounds to JHF's Work

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation internship program resumes this summer with six interns serving across all the Foundation's focus areas. This year's interns bring a diverse range of academic backgrounds and interests to JHF's initiatives.

**Gabriella Agostaro** is a doctoral candidate in the healthcare ethics program at Duquesne University. She joined the Aging Team as an intern in the summer of 2022 and is excited to continue to progress end-of-life education and care for the geriatric population.

**Benjamin Appel** is a rising senior at York College of Pennsylvania, pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology. This summer he is working with the Aging and Long-Term Care team to identify systemic issues within the nursing home infrastructure and to



(Pictured L to R): Gabriella Agostaro, Benjamin Appel, Jonah Cortez, Elizabeth Klusman, Lauren Paine, Hadar Re'em, Sumedha Sripada, and Riley Wolynn.

conceptualize innovative solutions. In the future, he is committed to developing self-sustaining philanthropic programs for socioeconomically disadvantaged groups.

**Jonah Cortez** is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh pursuing his Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in health policy and management. He will be interning at JHF this summer supporting recruitment, retention, and training of the Behavioral Health Fellows program. His passion in understanding the impact of health policy on health outcomes is why he is eager to contribute to the success of behavioral health initiatives in Allegheny County.

**Elizabeth Klusman** is a second-year master's student at the University of Pittsburgh, pursuing a Master of Public Health in epidemiology. She is working as an intern for the HIV/AIDS program aiding in the Ryan White Program needs assessment. Her areas of interest include infectious disease, women's health, and global health.

**Lauren Paine** is a student at the University of Pittsburgh pursuing a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management. Lauren Paine joined JHF as an intern on the patient safety initiatives in 2022 and is excited to continue to advance the projects throughout the summer.

**Hadar Re'em** is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh pursuing a dual master's degree in public health and social work. She will be working on women's health initiatives at JHF this summer. Re'em seeks to support continued efforts to eliminate racial disparities in maternal and child health outcomes.

**Sumedha Sripada** is a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, pursuing a bachelor's degree in computational biology. She joined JHF to work as a data intern for the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home initiative, where she will assist with analyzing clinical data from nursing homes.

**Riley Wolynn** is a student at the University of Pittsburgh's Accelerated Public Health Program, pursuing a Master of Public Health in behavioral and community health sciences with a certificate in health equity. She will be joining the communications team at JHF this summer for her practicum.

## JFCS Highlights JHF-Seeded Efforts at Annual Meeting

The Jewish Family and Community Services celebrated their 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their annual meeting on May 18. At the event, Jewish Healthcare Foundation-seeded efforts were celebrated throughout, including The Squirrel Hill Food Pantry and [UpStreet](#).

JHF funded the planning and start-up of the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry, the only Food Bank Program in Western Pennsylvania that provides a full array of kosher foods. In addition to distributing food to immigrants, the elderly, and those in need, the small staff and volunteers also provide social support services.

JHF spearheaded bringing the concept behind UpStreet to Pittsburgh and ultimately provided the seed funding to create UpStreet, a service managed by JFCS providing an accessible online, text-based resource for Pittsburgh teens to receive mental health support from a licensed counselor, in addition to a peer mentoring program, training workshops, and teen mental wellness programming.



## Patient Safety Advocate Carole Hemmelgarn Visits JHF

Carole Hemmelgarn, MS, MS met with Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) staff during her visit to Pittsburgh on May 4 to discuss ongoing efforts to advance patient safety priorities. Hemmelgarn is a Senior Director of Education at the MedStar Health Institute for Quality and Safety, the Program Director for the [Executive Master's in Clinical Quality, Safety & Leadership at Georgetown University](#), and a founding member of the advocacy group [Patients for Patient Safety US](#). She has been a dedicated partner with JHF in national efforts and convenings to improve safety in the healthcare system, including collaborating on the work to create a [National Patient Safety Board](#).



Pictured left to right: Karen Feinstein, Scotland Huber, Carole Hemmelgarn, Lisa George, and Richard Smith.

## Nancy Zionts Featured in Grantmakers in Aging Member Spotlight

JHF COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts is featured in this month's Grantmakers in Aging member spotlight. [Read more.](#)



## JHF Board Member Carole Bailey named McElhattan Foundation Executive Director

JHF Board member and Audit Chair Carole Bailey, CPA has been named the executive director of the McElhattan Foundation, a Pittsburgh-based grantmaking foundation whose mission is to preserve and enhance human life by focusing on workplace safety, education, end-of-life planning and care, and community development.



She will succeed its previous executive director, Leslie Carlin, who retired earlier this year. Bailey is the president and CEO of East End Cooperative Ministry. Her previous experience also includes serving as WQED and Manchester Bidwell Corp., was identified via a locally focused search.

## JHF Staff Attend CPR, First Aid Training

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation hosted a CPR, AED, and basic first aid training on May 24. Provided by [Before It's Too Late](#), participating employees earned their American Red Cross CPR card.



## Lindsey Ronnenberg Advances Growth and Efficiency in the Healthcare Innovation Space

Lindsey Ronnenberg is the senior director of global quality products and services at Omnicell, a company providing innovative pharmacy and medication management solutions for healthcare professionals and health systems.

Since 1992, Omnicell has been committed to transforming the pharmacy care delivery model to dramatically improve outcomes and lower costs. Through a vision to replace manual, Omnicell supports more efficient ways to manage medications across care settings.

Omnicell's Primary Executive Office is in Fort Worth, TX and many key operational activities are based out of Cranberry Twp, PA.



Healthcare facilities worldwide use Omnicell automation and analytics solutions to help increase operational efficiency, reduce medication errors, deliver actionable intelligence, and improve patient safety. Institutional and retail pharmacies across North America and the United Kingdom leverage Omnicell's innovative medication adherence and population health solutions to improve patient engagement and adherence to prescriptions, helping to reduce costly hospital readmissions. Omnicell's award-winning solutions are used in over 5,000 hospitals throughout the world and in over 40,000 institutional and retail pharmacies.

"I can't imagine working in another industry. I've had so much satisfaction in seeing that my job has a real purpose and positive impact on people when they're at their most vulnerable. It's something that really becomes a part of who you are as a person," said Ronnenberg, who has worked for Omnicell's Cranberry Township location since 2016. "Omnicell is a customer-centric company focused on driving real outcomes. We have listeners and creative thinkers. It's important to have both and to be committed to the mission and being persistent in making things better for the patient and the caregivers."

Before Omnicell, Ronnenberg worked in South Carolina at Trumpf Medical a Hill-Rom Company as a QA/RA manager and quality, regulatory and North American Technical Service Manager; Berchtold Corporation as the southwest technical service and project manager and quality assurance engineer and supervisors; and at Federal Mogul – Sealing Systems as a manufacturing engineer.

She holds a master's degree in business administration with an international business concentration from University of South Carolina Moore School of Business and a bachelor of science education in industrial operations and engineering from the University of Michigan College of Engineering.

With a goal of providing higher quality patient care, Ronnenberg said it makes sense for technology to do what it does best. At Omnicell, president, owner and CEO owner Randall Lipps mission is a personal one. He founded Omnicell in 1992 after observing how inefficiently medical

supplies were managed when his daughter was hospitalized at birth. Inspired by his work in airline industry operations and logistics, he sought to enable better management of supplies and medications to improve patient care. As a mother of three, Ronnenberg said Omnicell's mission is personal to her as well.

"As someone who has, for many years, worked in the medical industry and in safety risk management, you know that there's errors and adverse events happen," Ronnenberg said. "At the end of the day, I really, truly believe that automation and technology can do some things better and provide better outcomes."

Great ideas are key to innovation. However, Ronnenberg said a great idea can fall victim to lack of understanding of quality system regulation, right-sizing processes, safety compliance, risk management, and strategic steps to engage and partner with other businesses that can impact and elevate a product's performance.

"The operational piece is really a deterrent for a lot of innovators, as well as how to partner with other businesses that can have an impact the performance of their product or device," Ronnenberg said.

This is where she, as well as others at the Regional Autonomous Patient Safety initiative launch event see the importance of a third party, like JHF, providing opportunity to provide a level learning or to create a partnership with universities to provide curriculum about the steps from idea to placement to pipeline.

When it comes to innovation, Ronnenberg said it is key to understand that growth is incremental. "The level of comfort that people have with technology grows over time," she said. "We like to compare it to autonomous cars. They're safe, but some people are uncomfortable with them. People cause car accidents every day, and it's a risk we accept daily to get to and from tasks and do things that aren't even as essential as health care. We have to approach autonomous technology in health care in stages, with a step-by-step approach, and be open to the risks and benefits."

To create an innovation hub in Pittsburgh, Ronnenberg gave a nod to the ability to engage the universities in Pittsburgh combined with companies like Omnicell that are working, robotic technology, and individual ingenuity in Pittsburgh.

"We have the talent and interest here, we just need help getting started and operationalizing ideas, helping innovators understand the hospital landscape, regulatory requirements, and pathways to get training on things like this," she said.

"There's always opportunities for people to realize their ideas. But most importantly, we need to understand what customers need – and that customer is the frontline healthcare worker."

## JHF Staff Recognize Bring Your Child to Work Day

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation celebrated Bring Your Child to Work Day on April 27 as an opportunity for the children of staff to explore and learn what is possible in their futures. JHF welcomed Anneliese Perry's children Joseph and Nora, and Sara Nelis' son Leo to the office for the day.



Pictured left are Anneliese Perry's children, Nora and Joseph, and pictured right are Sara Nelis and son Leo.