



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

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## Presidential Advisory Group Recommends National Patient Safety Team

The effort to remake patient safety in the United States took a monumental step forward on September 8, when the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) released its much-anticipated [Report to the President: A Transformational Effort on Patient Safety](#). The recommendations have been informed by the ongoing work of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative-led National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) Advocacy Coalition, which has been actively engaged with the PCAST Working Group on Patient Safety as a key stakeholder.



This landmark report, the first significant national recommendations on patient safety since the publication of the Institute of Medicine's *To Err Is Human* more than 20 years ago, details the urgent need for federal attention to the growing problem of medical error and details four actions to address it. The first recommendation is to "Establish and Maintain Federal Leadership for the Improvement of Patient Safety as a National Priority," which includes creating a multidisciplinary National Patient Safety Team within the Department of Health and Human Services and the appointment of a patient safety coordinator reporting to the President. This recommendation aligns closely with the NPSB Advocacy Coalition's key priority and core legislative goals of creating an interdisciplinary, innovation-focused team at the national level and establishing a federal home for patient safety. The report also recommends advancing technological solutions to address patient safety and alleviate the burden on the frontlines, which also is a key component of the NPSB legislation. Importantly, the report calls for the elevation of the patient voice in healthcare safety, another key priority of the NPSB legislation.

PCAST's recommendations outline steps that President Biden can take independent of Congress to address patient safety, for which responsibility currently is scattered across a multitude of agencies, with no single point of oversight. These recommendations would ensure that the voice of patients and families will be heard.

The scope of the NPSB as detailed in the current legislative specs is more expansive than the role of the National Patient Safety Team recommended by PCAST, and thus the NPSB Coalition continues to work on addressing patient safety from a legislative angle. The Coalition is making progress in the House toward introduction of an updated bipartisan National Patient Safety Board Act this fall. These efforts are aimed at ensuring that patient safety becomes a national priority. The announcement has garnered significant coverage in national media outlets, and with World Patient Safety Day having been observed on September 17, much-needed attention is being brought to the persistent problem of medical error and the urgency for action.

Co-chaired by Joe Kiani, chairman and CEO of Masimo, and Eric Horvitz, chief scientific officer at Microsoft, the PCAST Working Group on Patient Safety also includes members Dr. Donald

Berwick, Dr. Lisa Cooper, Dr. Sue Desmond-Hellmann, Christopher Hart, Dr. Harlan Krumholz, Julie Morath, Dr. Peter Pronovost, and Sue Sheridan.

## JHF Approves over \$1M in Grants, Including Establishing a Precision Public Health Collaboratory, 10.27 Healing Partnership Phase II & More

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) approved over \$1,000,000 in grants, including funds for Precision Public Health Collaboratory, Phase II of the 10.27 Healing Partnership, the Patient Safety Technology Challenge 2.0, continued support for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, establishing the Justin Reid Ehrenwerth Award, and to continue the JHF Feinstein Fellowships and internships.



### *Establishing the Precision Public Health Collaboratory*

JHF approved funding up to \$100,000, or \$50,000 for each grantee, for Pitt Public Health and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to establish the Precision Public Health Collaboratory as a hub to combine Pitt Public Health's expertise in data science with CMU's world-renowned expertise in AI/ML and computer science.

The grant will be used for a one-day workshop of Pitt and CMU faculty to explore the components of a Pitt and CMU collaboration and for the creation of Precision Public Health Collaboration Pilot Awards to foster collaborative research projects including at least one Pitt investigator and one CMU investigator.

### *10.27 Healing Partnership Phase II*

JHF approved funding up to \$275,000 over four years to implement Phase II of the Jewish Community Center's (JCC) 10.27 Healing Partnership. The funding will help to expand the 10.27 Healing Partnership's programming and services beyond that of the direct victims and the Pittsburgh Jewish community, providing alternative healing therapies, community presentations, coordinate efforts to build impact among school-age populations impacted by ongoing trauma, and to work with the Virtual Senior Academy at AgeWell at JCC to better understand the trauma experienced by seniors within and beyond Squirrel Hill.

### *Patient Safety Technology Challenge 2.0*

JHF approved up to \$275,000 in funding to organize an annual virtual Grand Challenge, an opportunity to reward the continued progress of the teams that competed in the Patient Safety Technology Challenge-sponsored events and catalyze the teams to the next stages of ideation, development, and commercialization with selected finalists being announced at a major industry event.

Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative will also continue to fund national, regional, and university-led competitions to add the “BIG IDEA: Patient Safety Technology Awards” to their events as part of the Patient Safety Technology Challenge.

### *The Justin Reid Ehrenwerth Award*

In honor of Justin Reid Ehrenwerth life’s work and legacy, JHF approved a one-time grant of \$50,000 to the Anti-Defamation League’s Cleveland Chapter and \$200,000 to establish a fund at JHF which will provide an annual award to recognize and support organizations in Pittsburgh, Louisiana, and Washington, DC, which perpetuate the values, ideals, and aspirations that Justin exemplified in his lifetime.

The Justin Reid Ehrenwerth Community Impact Award will be administered by a selection committee consisting of members of the Ehrenwerth family and their designees, and they will annually select an organization to recognize for their work with an award amount determined by the committee.

### *Grant Renewals*

JHF renewed its annual support for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, approving \$68,000 for general operating support and approved \$225,000 per year for internships and the JHF Feinstein Fellowships, including the Salk Health Activist Fellowship, Patient Safety Fellowship, Death & Dying Fellowship, and Death & Dying Series for Healthcare Professionals.

## **Karen Feinstein Receives Prestigious Patricia R. Rooney Award**

Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD received the Patricia R. Rooney Award, named after the late wife of Dan Rooney Sr., and presented annually to a woman who has provided exceptional service to the Pittsburgh community.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Rooney Award Dinner was held September 12 at Acrisure Stadium, bringing together Pittsburgh’s leaders in business, education, and sports to honor those who have made a long-term impact or have recently stepped up to help the community in a major way.

Established by Steelers founder “The Chief,” Art Rooney, in 1973 to support the work of the Catholic Youth Association, the Rooney Dinner has won the involvement and support of business leaders, athletes, religious figures, and elected officials. The non-denominational organization provides services to children and adults in the Pittsburgh region.



Jim Rooney and Karen Feinstein at the Art Rooney Award Dinner.

Other award recipients at the event included: Art Rooney II receiving The Art Rooney Award, Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin honored with The Bob Prince Award, KDKA announcer Larry Richert receiving The Bill Burns Award, and Howard Hanna CEO Helen Hanna Casey receiving The John E. McGrady Award.



Left: Karen Feinstein accepting the Patricia R. Rooney Award. Right: Award winners and Rooney family members (left to right) Art Rooney II, Karen Feinstein, Mario and Nina Hamlin, Larry Richert, Helen Hanna Casey, and Dan Rooney.



## JHF Board Welcomes Grant Speakers and Enjoys Tour of New Vision Institute

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees met on September 11 at the new UPMC Mercy Pavilion, home of the UPMC Vision Institute, recipient of [grant funding for the Digital Twin Eye project](#) in 2021. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Foundation Trustees to hear from JHF grantees, including a tour and update from the Vision Institute, and pause in memory of September 11.

The tour of the UPMC Mercy Pavilion, led by Lawton Snyder, Chief Executive Officer of the Eye & Ear Foundation, highlighted the unique features of the new facility to support patient-centered care and groundbreaking research to better understand, treat, and prevent vision loss and restore sight, including the Digital Twin Eye project. The facility elevates the use of pioneering technology to inform safe and effective care for their patients.

The JHF Trustees also had an opportunity to hear directly from two additional grantees, Jason Kunzman, MBA, the newly appointed President and CEO of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (JCC) and former JHF chief financial officer and chief operating officer, who spoke about the future and [impact to date](#) of the [10.27 Healing Partnership](#), which is housed at the JCC and will be expanded in scope thanks in-part to the new funding from JHF; and Maureen



Karen Feinstein introduces grantees to the Board.



Board members tour the new UPMC Mercy Pavilion.

Lichtveld, MD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh, who spoke about the innovative new [Precision Public Health Collaboratory](#) established in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, originally conceived and driven into formation by Karen Feinstein.

The Board also took the opportunity to honor the late Justin Ehrenwerth, recognizing the importance of the [newly established Justin Reid Ehrenwerth Award](#) created to continue the legacy of his work.

[Read more](#) about all the approved grants by the JHF Board, including three renewals for continued annual support of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, funding in perpetuity for JHF Feinstein Fellowships and Internship Program, and a continuation of the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#).

## 2023 Salk Fellowship Focuses on Mental Health Policy in Pennsylvania

Now is the time for desperately needed mental health reforms, as both President Joseph Biden and Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro have voiced their commitment to mental health service expansion to meet the great demand. This fall's Salk Health Activist Fellowship is focused on equipping healthcare activists with effective skills and insights to advance key mental health policy issues in Pennsylvania.



Salk Fellows convened virtually with Karen Feinstein describing the history of the fellowship and its approach.

The annual JHF Feinstein Fellowship kicked off on September 19 with Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, outlining JHF's approach to activist philanthropy, critical insights from her years of successful advocacy, and introducing the accomplished fellowship cohort to one another.

As is hallmark to all JHF's Feinstein Fellowships, the Salk Health Activist Fellowship features an interdisciplinary mix of 29 participants representing 18 different disciplines from 13 different universities.

At the second session on September 26, fellows had the opportunity to learn about the context of mental health in Pittsburgh from Dr. Kathi Elliot, CEO of Gwen's Girls, and Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Director of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine and Director of Community and Population Health at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. They discussed the most pressing mental health policy issues in the region, policies that could promote equity in mental health delivery, and

effective strategies to establish a collaborative and inclusive environment when convening communities and partners in mental health advocacy.

Throughout this fall, the fellows will form interdisciplinary groups and develop an action plan to advance mental health policy priorities at the state level. Through additional sessions and instruction from leaders at Children First, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Steel Smiling, Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation, Community Care Behavioral Health, Carnegie Mellon University, PublicSource, and previous Salk Fellowship alumni, fellows will gain a deeper understanding of how to effectively communicate their concerns and policy priorities. The Salk Fellowship will conclude on November 14 with groups detailing their strategies for enacting policy change.

## PA PQC Receives \$795K HRSA Grant to Improve Maternal Health

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is the recipient of a \$795,000 federal grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) which will enable the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) to implement a new Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) bundle each year, such as evidence-based practices for issues such as hemorrhage or postpartum discharge, in addition to the PA PQC's continuing work with substance use disorders.



Robert Ferguson, MPH, chief policy officer, has led the PA PQC since it was launched in April 2019, with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Henry L. Hillman Foundation as an action arm of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee. Over 60 birth sites and neonatal intensive care units and over 10 health plans across the Commonwealth are actively identifying perinatal processes that need to be improved and quickly adopting best practices to achieve the common aims. The focus areas include maternal Opioid Use Disorder, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, contraceptive care, maternal depression, and severe hypertension.

The grant funding began September 1 and will continue through August 31, 2027.

## UpStreet Celebrates Opening of Teen Drop-In Center

On September 20, the grand opening of the physical location of UpStreet was held, opening the doors to the teen mental wellness program which offers drop-in consultation with therapists, scheduled therapy appointments, text-based peer support, and support groups for teens.

[UpStreet Pittsburgh](#), a teen mental health service offering free counseling to anyone ages 12-22, was seeded after JHF's 2018 study tour to an [Australian headspace centre](#) and was implemented by the Jewish Family and Community Services



Karen Feinstein, John Katz, Jordan Golin, and Deborah Murdoch at the UpStreet grand opening. (Photo courtesy of JFCS)

(JFCS). (Learn more about the mental health approach in Australia through this interview: [Mental Health in Australia](#)) JHF also provided initial funding and consultation for the launch of the program. UpStreet initially launched in 2020 as an online service for mental health supports, the physical space will provide an extension of its teen mental health service delivery in-person at 5844 Forward Avenue.

UpStreet’s new brick-and-mortar presence enables teens and young adults to receive in-person support in a youth-centered environment with no barriers to entry. Together, these programs provide comprehensive support for youth and help them move toward promising futures.

“On our 2018 JHF study tour we visited one of Australia’s headspace sites. Australia now has 154 of these drop-in centers to address the behavioral health needs of youth, teens, and young adults,” said Karen Wolk Feinstein. They provide everything from peer mentorships to informal counseling to early psychosis treatment. The model has been so successful that Australia plans to double the number. We knew that we wanted to bring the model back to the US,” Dr. Feinstein said. “We spoke with JFCS and Friendship Circle and now we have two new teen drop-in centers in Squirrel Hill. It was amazing to attend this opening because UpStreet so closely mirrors headspace. It is my hope that we will have, at some point, centers like UpStreet throughout Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania. Let’s decentralize ‘triage’ and bring it to the neighborhood.”



Attendees tour the spaces available to teens at UpStreet. (Photo courtesy of JFCS)

The UpStreet facility houses all the programs of the new JFCS Youth Services department, which was established earlier this year. These programs include UpStreet; various barrier reduction services; 412 Futures, a career exploration program for high school students; Bridge Builders, an afterschool program for refugee and immigrant youth; and Learn and Earn, a summer employment program.

“I am beyond thrilled that the ideas we discussed back in 2018 for an innovative youth mental health service and space have finally come to fruition,” said Dr. Jordan Golin, President & CEO of Jewish Family & Community Services. “We are so grateful to the Jewish Healthcare Foundation for their ongoing attention to the mental health needs of young people in our community and for all of the funders and JFCS staff who helped make this vision a reality with the opening of our new JFCS Youth Services space.”

## Up Next for Patient Safety Podcast Highlights the Power of Simulation

Healthcare simulation has had a powerful impact on medical education, giving students and providers the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with complex procedures within a safe, controlled environment. But what is the potential for simulation to also help address the persistent problem of medical error? Join host Karen Wolk Feinstein and guests Lance Baily of Healthysimulation.com and Dr. Paul Phrampus of the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research, for glimpse into the future of healthcare simulation and how it can transform safety for both patients and providers.



Listen to the episode [here](#).

## Robert Ferguson Highlights the National Patient Safety Board at International Healthcare Safety Investigations Conference

Robert Ferguson, MPH, Chief Policy Officer, Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and Jewish Healthcare Foundation was a guest at the Healthcare Safety Investigations Conference on September 27. In its fourth year, the online patient safety conference gathered global stakeholders interested in patient safety to discuss and engage around the theme ‘Engaging Patients for Patient Safety.’



Attended by 700 people, the panel discussion titled “HSIB Global – Sharing Learning” led by Andrew Murphy-Pittock, Head of Investigation Education, HSIB, Professor Shin Ushiro, Japan Council for Quality Healthcare, and Ferguson discussed learnings about improving patient safety through national programs and proposed organizations.

Ferguson provided an overview of the National Patient Safety Board Coalition’s vision for a public-private R&D team and healthcare safety team, solely focused on preventing harm with the goal of aggregating data across the public and private partners to identify and anticipate harm; study precursors, causes, and contextual factors when abnormal patterns and recurring harm are identified; and develop solutions for public-private partners to adopt.

## HIV Providers Share Outreach Strategies to Improve Linkage and Retention in Care across Pennsylvania

Four HIV case managers shared lessons learned over the past decade through implementation of the statewide Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) at an HIV conference hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health Division of HIV Disease in Gettysburg, PA on September 13<sup>th</sup>. MAI is focused on improving linkage and retention in care through outreach and health education for HIV positive individuals, and JHF provides grants management, training, and facilitation of peer-to-peer education as a fiscal agent for this program.



Deborah Murdoch, far right, and Emma Seagle, second from right, facilitate a panel on improving HIV care.

Deborah Murdoch, MPH, senior program manager, community health, and Emma Seagle, MPH, program officer, facilitated the panel which included discussion of strategies for targeted outreach to clients in hospitals, prisons, and communities.

Panelists included: Ciera King, program manager at Einstein Medical Center Immunodeficiency Center; Odessa Summers, case management coordinator at Action Wellness; Sandra Valdez, chief human services officer at the Spanish American Civic Association; and Reinaldo Camacho-Torres, medical case manager at Co-County Wellness Services. In addition to sharing successful strategies for promoting linkage and retention in care in the communities they serve, panelists discussed the importance of building trusting relationships, advocating for their clients, improving health systems, and addressing barriers to care.



Outreach workers participate in a biannual learning session, held at EQT Plaza.

Twenty-two outreach workers from the 11 grantees participating in the program also gathered in Pittsburgh for a bi-annual learning session on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ken Ho, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Disease at the University of Pittsburgh shared clinical updates impacting HIV care and strategies for messaging around these developments. Participants discussed approaches for health education using case scenarios and a 'knowledge café' focused on addressing stigma, mental health, and clinical care updates. The group explored strategies for meeting the specific needs of immigrant and refugee communities through agency spotlights for organizations working with these groups and a presentation by Abby Jo Perez, refugee health and stabilization supervisor at

Hello Neighbor, on culturally and linguistically appropriate services in health care. The learning session also included a half-day training session on motivational interviewing.

## Relive Too Hot for July

Relive Too Hot for July (TH4J), Pittsburgh's only HIV awareness event with [this recap video](#) and through [interviews with](#) vendors and service providers at the event. Held June 1, the event honors those lost to, living with, and affected by HIV while educating the community about advancements in prevention and treatment that can end the epidemic. Hosted by AIDS Free Pittsburgh, in partnership with True T Pgh, this year's event featured 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.



## AIDS Free Pittsburgh Participates in Overdose Awareness Event

[AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#) joined dozens of local organizations, officials, and residents at a resource fair at the City-County Building to recognize International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31.

Local organizations set up tables where people could be connected to resources and learn about overdoses and substance use disorders. Mayor Ed Gainey urged attendees to spread awareness about overdoses and other risks associated with drugs. He also called for more funding for recovery and education programs.



Hazell Azzer of AFP poses with Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey.

## PA Long-Term Care Learning Collaborative Assembles Nursing Homes Amid Sea of Changes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced two changes with significant implications for both the daily operations and overall health of the nursing home industry. CMS initiated changes to the required Minimum Data Set (MDS), which is an assessment tool that CMS uses to measure nursing home residents' health status, as well as minimum staffing mandates, which many nursing homes have cautioned they will not be able to meet.



Against this backdrop, the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Learning Network convened on September 28 for its quarterly Learning Collaborative webinar. Nearly 200 participants from nursing facilities across Pennsylvania joined the webinar to hear how their peers have helped enhance their staff's clinical skills for complex conditions.

Larry Appel, MD, SFHM, medical director at the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Office of Long-Term Living began by providing updates from his department. Three nursing facilities presented promising practices for helping staff provide care for residents with complex conditions. Nicole Watson, BSW, RN, WCC, vice president of clinical excellence at SpiriTrust Lutheran, highlighted how floor beds have helped her nursing home reduce bed falls by 77 percent, save nurses more time, and reduce costs associated with falls.

Linnie Clark, RN, infection control specialist, and Wendy Hildenbrandt, BSN, RN, CNDLTC, CDCP, director of nursing at Morningstar Living shared strategies to encourage staff to get vaccinated against COVID. Clark and Hildenbrandt walked through internal communications materials they created for the COVID vaccines such as a “Bee Safe for Summer” booster campaign.

Reformed Presbyterian Home’s executive director Cara D. Todhunter, MA, CCC/SLP, MPM, NHA presented a creative approach to teach staff infection control: escape room activities. Hand hygiene, infection source control, personal-protective equipment, and cleaning were all incorporated into the escape room.

The meeting then shifted to the long-term care industry’s controversial new federal regulation: the CMS staffing mandate, which requires minimum staff levels that many facilities will likely struggle to meet given the ongoing healthcare staffing crisis. The Pennsylvania Health Care Association’s vice president of operations Chris Fisher, MS NHA and their director of policy and regulatory affairs Gail Weidman detailed the regulations and how they are supporting nursing facilities as they respond to this change.

Jewish Healthcare Foundation COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zions, MBA described how the Pennsylvania Teaching Nursing Home Collaborative could help nursing facilities improve their workforce pipeline by establishing or strengthening their partnerships with local schools of nursing. The Collaborative is an extension of the Revisiting Teaching Nursing Home pilot, which established a foundation for relationships between schools of nursing and nursing homes. The next phase of the initiative aims to capitalize on the successes of the pilot by expanding the model across the state. Zions invited all nursing facilities in Pennsylvania to join the Collaborative and build their workforce pipeline.

Brian Stever, RN, BSN, RAC-CT, a clinical reimbursement consultant with the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinator closed the meeting by highlighting the specific changes to the MDS and how it will improve information on residents’ continuity of care. The PA Long-Term Care Learning Network’s fourth quarter will focus on workforce opportunities and will begin on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Karen Feinstein Speaks at Auton Lab’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The Auton Lab 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was held September 8 at Carnegie Mellon University, including presentations from the illustrious alumni of Auton Lab, panel discussions with some of the region's leading informatics and technology leaders and researchers, and a poster session featuring the current research at Auton Lab.

Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Region Health Initiative (PRHI) sat on the panel "AI/ML with Impact." Moderated by Jeff Schneider, the panel also included Cara Jones, William King, and Gilles Clermont. The discussion focused on current innovations and applications of AI and ML to solve challenging problems in a variety of industries, including health care. Dr. Feinstein called out the work of Auton Lab to support [The Enhanced Detection System for Healthcare-Associated Transmission System](#) and the ongoing work of the RAPS initiative to foster more patient safety technology innovations.



Panelist Gilles Clermont, Cara Jones, and Karen Feinstein discuss applications of AI/ML.



HackAuton winners (from left to right): Charlie Sun, Minh Tran, and HackAuton organizer Jack Good.

The Auton Lab at Carnegie Mellon University is a leading research facility focused on artificial intelligence and machine learning. Its interdisciplinary team of experts collaborates to develop cutting-edge algorithms and systems that solve complex real-world problems.

PRHI, as part of its Patient Safety Technology Challenge, was also an event sponsor for the Auton Lab HackAuton held Sept. 15-17. HackAuton provided CMU students with the opportunity to engage with lab members, apply their skills, work with peers, learn from mentors, and tackle an exciting challenge in competition for a prize.

The winning team's focus was [Prescription Evaluation](#) using GPT4 and openFDA where they created a demo of a prescription checker that used artificial intelligence which would reduce human oversight and improve effectiveness. Team members include Charlie Sun and Minh Tran.

## A Jam-Packed Fall: Announcing Eight New Patient Safety Technology Challenges

Eight new competitions joined the Patient Safety Technology Challenge this month. Funded by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and administered by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, the Patient Safety Technology Challenge is designed to fuel the engagement of students and innovators in creating solutions and envisioning transformational approaches to reduce preventable harm from medical errors and reimagine a vastly safer healthcare system.



## October

The 9th Columbia Data Science Hackathon will be held on October 7-8<sup>th</sup>. Over the course of the event, any registered student from Columbia University will compete in a team of up to four members in one of the available tracks, including a patient safety track. The top patient safety idea will be awarded \$500. Learn more [here](#).

The Sonsiel Nurses Know Challenge is holding a BIG IDEA: Patient Safety Technology Award competition. The idea that best addresses one of the leading categories of patient harm wins a \$5,000 award. The challenge is open to students, nurses, healthcare professionals, technologists, developers, and anyone else interested. Submissions are open until October 5<sup>th</sup>. Learn more [here](#).

HackNC, a hackathon held on October 27-29 at UNC Chapel Hill, added a new track on patient safety technology. A prize of \$400 will be given to the best idea. HackNC invites students from all skill levels to participate. Learn more [here](#).

The Arizona State University Innovation Open is designed to challenge and advance university student innovators who aim to develop hard tech ventures. This year a \$10,000 award has been offered for the best tech-enabled patient safety venture. Application closes October 31<sup>st</sup>, finalists will be announced December 1<sup>st</sup>, and the final event is February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Apply [here](#).

## November

HackUTD is the largest university hackathon in Texas, bringing together 1,000 students to build apps, hardware, and more. This year a Patient Safety Technology Track has been added. The winning team will receive \$1,000. HackUTD will be held in University of Texas at Dallas on November 4-5. Learn more [here](#).

MakeUC is a hackathon weekend hosted on November 4-5<sup>th</sup> at the University of Cincinnati's 1819 Innovation Hub. A \$500 prize will be given to the team with the best tech-enabled patient safety solution. MakeUC welcomes all students. Learn more [here](#).

HackSC-X, Southern California's premier AI hackathon, is a 24-hour event based at the University of Southern California. In partnership with the Patient Safety Technology Challenge, HackSC-X aims to harness the power of AI and AR/VR technologies to advance patient safety. This year's event will be held November 4-5. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. Learn more [here](#).

This year Arizona State University's annual Health Innovation Exhibition will feature patient safety. Freshman Nursing and Health Innovation students will come together to participate in a competition that aims to foster innovative patient safety solutions and present their ideas on November 17. Over \$3,500 prizes will be awarded. Learn more [here](#).

## New Patient Safety Technology Winners Announced in September

The Patient Safety Technology Challenge announced winners of the three sponsored events that took place in September. This month also marks the one-year anniversary of the Patient Safety Technology Challenge, and a brief video of the initiative's progress to date can be viewed [here](#).

HackDuke awarded a \$500 award to [Patient Watch](#), the winner of the patient safety track established through Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's funding. HackDuke was held September 8-10 on Duke University's Durham, North Carolina campus. Patient Watch is an automatic monitoring and warning system solution to alleviate burden on front-line workers. It monitors patients' conditions through web cameras and alerts staff to suboptimal conditions. Team members include Michael Bryant, Lilly Chivetta, and Kevin Deng.



Hack Duke winners (from left to right): Michael Bryant and Kevin Deng.

HopHacks awarded a \$750 prize for the best technology-enabled patient safety solution to [Countability](#). HopHacks was held at Johns Hopkins University on September 15-17, coinciding with World Patient Safety Day on the 17th. The winner, Countability, employs computer vision and object tracking to take real-time inventory of surgical implements during procedures. It sends alerts when objects are unaccounted for to reduce medical harm from surgical tools being left in patients. Members of the winning team are: Samuel Lihn, Malcom Krolick, Shivam Aarya, and Tarini Basireddy.

Congratulations to the winning teams and thank you to the organizers of the events for including the issue of patient safety as an option for innovators and entrepreneurs to address with their solutions.

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

## Pittsburgh Tech Council's AI Panel Features RAPS

Each year, the [Pittsburgh Technology Council](#) hosts the TEQ Magazine State of the Industry Report Reveal party, highlighting what's in the forefront of the region's innovation sector. Not surprisingly, the panel at this year's event on September 28 focused on the future of AI and how Pittsburgh is positioned to lead in some of the biggest verticals, most notably health care. Karen Wolk Feinstein joined the event's keynote panel to discuss the [Regional Autonomous Patient Safety \(RAPS\)](#) initiative and the many contributing factors indicating Pittsburgh is already in motion to lead development of desperately needed AI-infused solutions to help predict and prevent harm from taking place in healthcare settings.



Karen Feinstein participates on the "The Future Reality of AI" panel.

The Future Reality of AI Panel Discussion also featured Sean Ways of [eHealth Technologies](#); Kevin L. Miller of [LegalSifter](#) and Pam Kamath of [Adaptive.AI](#). Larry Gioia of [PwC](#) moderated the discussion that unpacked the current opportunities and challenges facing AI's use, and how AI will shape business and create new opportunities.

Read the RAPS feature published by the Pittsburgh Technology Council [here](#).

## Debra Caplan Appointed to Governor Shapiro's Workforce Development Board

Governor Josh Shapiro has named workforce development as a top priority for his Administration, revamping the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board and [announcing in September](#) the appointment of more than 40 members to guide its work of creating opportunity for Pennsylvania businesses and workers.



Jewish Healthcare Foundation Board Chair Debra Caplan, MPA was chosen to represent community organizations on the board. Caplan has served on the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Board of Trustees since 2015, and during that time has served in various leadership roles including as JHF Board vice chair from 2018-2020. She is currently chair of JHF's Board as well as JHF's operating arm [Women's Health Activist Movement Global](#) (WHAMglobal).

Since taking office, Governor Shapiro has been focused on creating real opportunity for Pennsylvanians, whether that's through college or the workforce. The 2023-24 bipartisan budget delivers on that promise by investing \$23.5 million in workforce training and vo-tech programs to prepare more students for skilled careers in the building, construction, and infrastructure industries and \$6 million in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programming so Pennsylvanians can earn-while-they-learn and secure a job that leads to family-sustaining wages.

The importance of this investment can be seen in a recent Pittsburgh Wage Study by the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work focusing on [“Worker-Generated Solutions for the Challenges Facing Hospital Workers.”](#)

In spring 2022, the Pittsburgh Wage Study released a report, “Leaving the Bedside: Findings from the Pittsburgh Hospital Workers Survey,” which highlighted the experiences of over 2,000 workers as they navigated increased demands due to COVID-19 and their adjustment to the new and still changing landscape. From December 2022 to April 2023, the Pittsburgh Wage Study team continued its work, conducting focus groups with 45 current and former Pittsburgh hospital workers to gain insight into their challenges and hear proposed resolutions to the risk to patient care and safety created by understaffing and insufficient worker-to-patient ratios, harms to worker well-being resulting from inadequate pay, benefits, and lack of mental health supports; and exacerbation of understaffing and worker stress due to management styles and a workplace culture that prioritizes profits over people and devalues workers' voices and expertise. [Read the report here](#).

This study highlights the continued need for the Foundation's efforts to advance improvements to the maternal care, mental health, community health worker, and long-term care workforces, and for [JHF's ongoing workforce development programs](#) including the BH Fellows program, the Feinstein Fellowships, and the Teaching Nursing Home Collaborative.

## Join Us at the Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City Gala on October 19

Join us for the Finale Gala for the [Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City](#) initiative on the evening of Thursday, October 19 at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. At the event, you'll hear from critical community organizations supporting Black mothers and their families, and network with allies and leaders working toward a future where we experience equitable Black maternal outcomes.



Doors open at 5 p.m. Presentations are at 6 p.m. with a reception from 7-9 p.m. Tickets are limited. Register for your free ticket early to secure your spot. [Register now.](#)

## JHF Sponsors Third Annual Eradicate Hate Global Summit in Pittsburgh

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was a funder of the third annual [Eradicate Hate Global Summit](#), the most comprehensive anti-hate conference in the world, held in Pittsburgh and virtually September 27-29.



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

This year's agenda addressed the current state of global hate-fueled violence, hate and polarization in Central and Eastern Europe, hate-based attacks and violence against the LGBTQ+ community, regulating online hate, Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting victims speak about the judicial process and discuss survivors and their voices in action, individual citizens in action, the impact of generational AI on the proliferation of online hate, activating health and social service systems, spotting warning signs and what to do, violent extremists, communication across the divide, and more.

Keynote speakers included Alejandro Mayorkas, secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Natan Sharansky in conversation with Dr. Misha Galperin; H.E. Ahmed Almansoori in conversation with Anila Ali; Jeff Pegues, Chief National Affairs & Justice Correspondent, CBS News; Tom Nichols, author, staff writer, The Atlantic; and Neil Potts, vice president of public policy, Meta Conversationalists with Inge Auerbacher, Holocaust survivor and author, Stephen Smith, PhD, CEO, co-founder of StoryFile, and David Tessler, director of public policy, Meta.

## JHF Welcomes New Project Accountant, Meagan Acrie

Meagan Acrie is the new project accountant for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Acrie will support finance needs across the Foundation's various programs. Before joining JHF, she worked for 13 years as a budget analyst in emergency services at Region 13 managing multiple million-dollar federal Homeland Security grants. Acrie earned her bachelor's degree in forensic accounting, with a minor in business management, from Carlow University.



## Jim Jen Bolsters and Leads CMU's Corporate Startup Lab

Looking back, most of Jim Jen's early jobs were computer related. Learning programming in high school, he spent his ninth-grade summer setting up and running a computer for a local business, creating spreadsheets to schedule the production of its dairy cows.

"I'm not sure I had a clear academic passion. But I really liked math, and I enjoyed analyzing data, including sports statistics. And I really enjoyed government and civics classes and elections because it's nonstop data," Jen said. "I was fortunate that I had this interest in computer systems and programming in the 1980s, before technology and innovation were mainstream concepts. I think this led to my early job opportunities in the tech industry."



Jim went on to attend Stanford University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Economics and a Master of Business Administration.

His first job out of college was as a software product manager with Hewlett Packard. The software group he worked with had an entrepreneurial mindset, developing products in anticipation of customer demand.

"Looking back, it was really a renegade group. We were developing products that we believed customers needed. It sparked this idea that even in a larger company, you still need to have that innovative spirit and the ability for groups to address needs that they see in the market, even if it isn't officially part of your charter," Jen said.

Living in Silicon Valley in Northern California, attending Stanford, and working for startup tech companies during the first wave of internet in the 1990s into the early 2000s further stoked his interest.

Prior to moving to Pittsburgh to be closer to family, Jim led product management at multiple Silicon Valley–based companies, both venture-backed and Fortune 500. As a management consultant, Jim advised consumer-oriented companies on strategic planning and revenue growth strategies.

When word got out that Jen was moving from Palo Alto to Pittsburgh, people were polite and interested, albeit slightly confused about the move to Pittsburgh—as were those he first met upon arriving in Pittsburgh.

But Jen felt a city on the precipice of growth when he first arrived and has seen it come to and continue to bear with an increase in startups and investment in the region, professionals relocating to the area, events focused on entrepreneurship and innovation on any given week, and continued growth in the innovation space.

Jen has been a leader in the growth of the Pittsburgh startup and entrepreneurship community over the last two decades and witnessed the growth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem firsthand. Jen co-founded AlphaLab, a nationally ranked accelerator program, one of the first accelerators in the U.S., and subsequently helped launch AlphaLab Gear (hardware/robotics/advanced materials), AlphaLab Health (life sciences/health care) and the Robotics Factory with corporate and industry partners. He also served as managing director at Riverfront Ventures. Jen led initial investments in over 200 pre-seed– and seed-stage companies for Innovation Works and guided some of Pittsburgh’s fastest-growing tech companies, resulting in several billion dollars of exit values and additional investment.

“Entrepreneurship and innovation can exist anywhere, including in larger established companies. There’s really a great opportunity for growth if you can harness the assets and resources of a larger company and combine it with entrepreneurial best practices.”

He was recently named director of the Corporate Startup Lab (CSL), a joint initiative between the Swartz Center for Entrepreneurship at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and CMU’s Tepper School of Business, and named a distinguished service professor of entrepreneurship, stepping down from his post as the chief operating officer at Innovation Works Inc. last February.

At CSL, Jen sets the vision and leads the design and development of the program, which performs research, develops tools, and provides opportunities for large companies to best integrate entrepreneurial practices into their own innovation processes, working with cross-disciplinary teams from CMU.

“The team has created a great program, so my goal is to build upon that, learn from the team and corporate partners, and then look for opportunities where we can do new things to meet their needs. One area I would like to do more of is create greater community peer groups among corporate innovation leaders, giving them more opportunities to interact and learn from each other.”

In Jen's experience, hurdles that entrepreneurs face include the difficulty of creating a new entity in a market that isn't clearly defined (or may not fully exist)—a daunting task regardless of industry. The very nature of innovation requires transforming an existing industry, company, its way of doing things, and way of thinking. In health care, the complexity of constituents, and integration into current systems and processes and the regulatory hurdles makes this even more challenging. In response to this, Jen is also looking to create tools and data for innovators to help them accelerate their processes.

According to Jen, the best way to support innovators is to provide them with the resources they need, appropriate to their stage of development; provide access early on to customers to validate the problem; find pathways for them to access data and test systems and get feedback in a controlled setting; and provide them with funding and introductions.

Jen is applying his expertise to several tech-focused projects sponsored by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI), serving on the advisory boards of the Patient Safety Technology Challenge and the Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) Initiative.

He is inspired by the RAPS Initiative because it strives to bring all the assets of the region together to define a new industry cluster embodying all of the strengths of the Pittsburgh region.

"It cuts through the traditional ways of talking about innovation technology. When you talk about it with a focus on patient safety, now you're making everything bigger. It's cross-industry, cross-technology with a focus on patient safety that is customer centered," said Jen, adding that Pittsburgh's strength in AI, data analytics, machine learning, robotics, autonomous systems, advanced materials, and biomedical engineering also make it ripe for patient safety innovation.

The focus on entrepreneurship at universities and colleges in Pittsburgh and in the region also complements the RAPS initiative.

A friend of JHF, Jen lauded the leadership of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and PRHI, noting that "Karen Feinstein's energy and optimism are infectious. Her leadership demonstrates the same qualities of speed, agility, and action we admire in entrepreneurs," said Jen, adding that the entire JHF team shares the same dedication and passion.