



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

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JHF Approves over \$1.7M in Grants, Including Teen Mental Health Initiatives, Programming to Address Women’s Health Inequities as They Age, & Grassroots Efforts to Support the National Patient Safety Board

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) approved over \$1,700,000 in grants, including funds for supporting teen mental health initiatives, addressing women’s health inequities as they age, activating Families USA’s Health Action Network to establish the National Patient Safety Board, supporting Jewish students facing rising antisemitism, and continuing support for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.



Supporting JHF’s Teen Mental Health Initiative

JHF approved \$250,000 to support the JHF teen mental health team’s work in the PA Youth Advocacy Network and the Teen Mental Health Collaborative through 2024, to support staffing and program costs. An additional \$50,000 has been granted to replenish the emergency grant fund for teen mental health support. Created in 2018 after the Tree of Life tragedy, and deployed during the pandemic to address the severe mental health repercussions, the \$50,000 will be used to support community-based organizations who are part of the Teen Mental Health Collaborative through grant opportunities.

Women As They Age: Addressing the Next Inequity Frontier

JHF approved a \$300,000 grant over the next two years for building on its Health Equity for Aging Women initiative that was initiated at the end of 2022 and led to a new focus for WHAMglobal in 2023. The new funding will drive an exchange among thought leaders to uncover fresh insights, promising strategies, and policy opportunities. To accomplish this, JHF is building a network of experts, advocates, and activists around the world to help develop recommendations and an action plan.

As part of this work, the Foundation along with other health and aging funders is spearheading an international Salzberg Global Seminar to be held in January 2024 in the San Diego area. The program will bring together 40 participants from across the globe for a two-and-a-half-day residential program to inform the initiative, serve as a call to action, and raise awareness.

Activating Families USA’s Health Action Network to Establish the NPSB

JHF approved a \$50,000 grant for Families USA to activate its Health Action Network around patient safety and the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) by holding a webinar for consumer and patient advocacy groups; posting patient safety and NPSB materials on their website as part of their healthcare value platform; asking advocacy groups to join the NPSB Coalition and sign

onto letters supporting the NPSB bill; pitching patient safety stories to earned media; and supporting local consumer advocacy groups in sending letters to the legislators' offices about the NPSB bill in targets states.

Supporting Jewish Students Facing Rising Antisemitism

JHF approved emergency funding to support the mental health needs of Jewish students facing rising antisemitism. The Board approved \$100,000 to Hillel International, \$25,000 to Hillel Jewish University Center, and \$5,000 each to Chabad on Campis at University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University.

In the wake of the Hamas attacks on Israel and the rising tensions in Israel and on college campuses worldwide, these grants will provide peer supports, safe havens, and expanded outreach to students.

Health Needs of the Jewish Community

JHF approved to maintain its support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh at the level of \$900,000 for 2024, representing 60 percent of the \$1.5 million in annual operating funds distributed to agencies and programs through the Federation's allocations process for the current year to support human service needs in Pittsburgh.

United Way of Southern Pennsylvania

JHF approved to maintain its support of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania at \$68,000. The grant is allocated to the Impact Fund which supports the core program of the United Way's partner agencies, as well as new initiatives that address the critical community needs of children, families, employment, health, housing, neighborhoods, and seniors, helping them to meet basic needs, move toward financial stability, and empower young learners for success in school and life.

JHF Emergency Grants Support the Tel Aviv Sexual Assault and Crisis Center

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation approved emergency grants totaling \$25,000 to the P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds for the Tel Aviv Sexual Assault and Crisis Center, Israel's first and largest rape crisis center.

"Since the attacks of October 7th, the Tel Aviv Sexual Assault Crisis Center has been at the forefront of addressing the aftermath of the atrocities committed that day. The Center, led by Miriam Schler, has offered crisis counseling, support groups, and other services to survivors of rape and sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas on October 7th as well as the broader Israeli community as it deals with the trauma of those events," said Danny Rosen, PhD, MSW, vice chair of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Board of Trustees. "There has been a significant increase in



demand for the Center’s services, and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation’s funding allows the Center to expand programs to address the ongoing trauma of survivors.”

Since the October 7 attacks, the Center has seen a steep rise in crisis intervention needs on its three separate hotlines for women, men, and religious men in response to the horrific accounts of sexual violence.

The Center is contacting evacuees from the attack sites and offering services at hotels and in communities where they are currently being housed, as well as providing trainings and supervision for mental health professionals and staff who are working with evacuees. The Center is also serving as a resource for families of the attack victims. Considered an expert resource on these subjects, the Center has already facilitated multiple training courses for volunteers and staff of other support organizations by providing secondary traumatization prevention and resilience training.

The Center is also sharing its professional knowledge and resources with the public by developing tools for parents and educators regarding how to speak with children and teens about the trauma of this situation.

“With the Foundation’s contribution, you are enabling the Center to buttress our crisis interventions, so that every survivor, triggered or trapped, and their loved ones receives the care they need and that Center volunteers have the tools to face these new challenges,” said Miriam Schler, executive director of the Tel Aviv Sexual Assault Crisis Center. “The Center could not answer this surge of need without your help.”

Trustees Tour JHF-Supported Teen Mental Health Spaces During All-Boards Meeting

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation’s commitment to teen mental health was on full display at its December All Boards meeting, which included tours of both The Beacon and UpStreet.

The Friendship Circle's [The Beacon](#) in Squirrel Hill held its first open house of its teen wellness and community space in May and started providing after-school and evening hours Monday through Friday in September. Made possible in part by [a grant](#) from JHF and others, the drop-in community space provides teens a stigma-free wellness support and connection with peers.



Board members tour the UpStreet space during the December All-Boards meeting.

Located at 1926 Murray Avenue, the 2,000-square-foot space offers programming on mindfulness, self-expression through creative arts, self-advocacy skills, finding purpose, setting boundaries, handling anxiety and depression, and connection with other available resources for therapeutic support when necessary.

“When the JHF conducted a study tour to Australia, we visited a headspace center. As of now, Australia has 154 drop-in centers for youth and teens around the country and plans to double that number.” Dr. Feinstein said. “What you’re going to see today is our attempt to replicate these invaluable programs in the US. Here at The Friendship Circle, we have The Beacon, and a second center exists several blocks away at UpStreet.”

The two drop-in centers for teens seeking immediate counseling or support or just someone to talk to in a friendly setting were inspired by [headspace](#), a youth mental health model in Australia that sparked the interest of Dr. Feinstein, Debra Caplan and Nancy Zions on the Foundation's 2018 tour. Australia's extraordinary commitment to investing in its youth inspired JHF to create these two spaces in Pittsburgh, hoping that excellent models might seed a movement.

Rabbi Mordy and Rivkee Rudolph thanked Dr. Feinstein, the Board, and JHF Senior Program Manager Deborah Murdoch for their support.



Karen Wolk Feinstein and members of JHF's senior staff provided an update to the Board on the accomplishments of JHF's programs in 2023.

The Board also toured JFCS [UpStreet Pittsburgh](#), a teen mental health service offering free counseling to anyone ages 12-22. JHF provided among the first grants that enabled the initial launch of the program in 2018 as an online platform serving teens during the pandemic. UpStreet has since extended its service delivery, opening a physical space at 5844 Forward Avenue in Squirrel Hill in early 2023.

With the goal of reducing the stigma of seeking mental health support, avoiding escalation of symptoms to a crisis stage, and enhancing the quality of life of youth, since its inception in 2020, over 800 people between the age of 12-22 have used its services.

UpStreet's teen mental wellness program offers drop-in consultations with therapists, scheduled therapy appointments, text-based peer support, and support groups for teens. UpStreet's services can be accessed in person or by using the chat boy located at the bottom of its web page.

“Our vision is to have these drop-in centers all over the city and all over the country,” Dr. Feinstein said.

New Jewish Community Advisory Committee Convenes

The Jewish Community Advisory Committee met for the first time on December 4 to begin to develop its working model for 2024 and to discuss potential funding priorities. The Committee is tasked by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh (JFED) with reviewing and making recommendations regarding the healthcare related needs of the Western Pennsylvania Jewish Community and related budgeting and funding priorities.



During the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's 2023 revision and restatement of its Corporate Bylaws, the new committee was established to include eight members, four appointed by the Chair of JHF and four appointed by the Chair of JFED. A co-chair of the Committee is appointed by each of the organizations from their appointees to the committee.

JHF appointed Danny Rosen as its Chair and its four appointees also include Emily Jaffe, Dan Swayze, and Brad Stein. JFED appointed Sue Berman as its Chair and Howard Sniderman, Matt Keller, and Liz Miller as its appointees.

Beginning in 2024, the Community Advisory Committee, affectionately known at JHF as the Gang of Eight, will bring substantive consideration to the optimal allocation of funding for health, mental health, and human services to support the Jewish community. Its initial emphasis will be on older adult services and teen mental health. The Committee will meet every six weeks during 2024 to allow time for significant research and fact finding. The Advisory Committee will seek input from the staff of the two organizations, relevant community agencies, as well as subject matters experts in policy, services, and academia.

While it is not a policymaking body, the Advisory Committee will bring shared accountability for how JHF and JFED resources are allocated within the Jewish Community to selected priority areas; enhance the creativity, vision, and innovation so investments will meet current and anticipated needs; support better partnership and leveraging of talent and financial support beyond the Jewish Community; avoid confusion, duplication, and disconnect between allocations within the Jewish Community by the two entities; and foster better communication, mutual appreciation, and enhanced respect among JHF, JFED, and community organizations.

World AIDS Day Event Creates Solidarity, Draws Attention to Available Resources

On December 1, AIDS Free Pittsburgh (AFP) with Allies for Health + Wellbeing, TrueT Pgh, and The Q-Munity Center brought together over 130 people for *The Category is... Red: A World AIDS Day Event* at the Union Project in Highland Park. Excluding the annual *Too Hot For July* events, this was the best attended event for AFP since its inception.

The purpose of many World AIDS Day events is to honor and hear from those living with and affected by HIV, and to educate the community about advancements in prevention and care that can end the epidemic. Event attendees were encouraged to wear red attire and accessories as a symbol of support for people impacted by HIV/AIDS and to demonstrate solidarity in efforts to eliminate the HIV epidemic locally, nationally, and globally. Sister Petra Pyper Pictapekhov Pickled Peckers of the Nuns of Steel, Abbey of Trinity Rivers, Steel Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence won the Best Dressed Category.

The hosts for the evening were Naheen Binion from True T Pgh and Dena Stanley from Trans YOUning, The Q-Munity Center, and Pittsburgh Pride Group. The DJ was HUNY XO and there were performances by 412 Step, Joey Young, Jita the Believer and Senor Poizun, IncoMEplete and members of the Pittsburgh Ballroom Scene.

The event included two panel discussions. The first included Yijia Li from Allies for Health and Wellbeing, Ken Ho from the UPMC PACT Clinic, Coley Alston from Hugh Lane Wellness, Aaron Arnold from Prevention Point Pittsburgh, Natalie Price from the Allegheny County Health Department, and Christopher Garnett from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. The second panel featured community members including Shekinah R, Eric P, Marc W, D’Nico P.E., and Lauryn P.



Pictured from left to right: Coley Alston (Hugh Lane Wellness), Aaron Arnold (Prevention Point Pittsburgh), Chris Garnett (JHF), Dr. Ken Ho (PACT, Pitt Men’s Study), and Yikia Li (Allies for Health and Wellbeing).



412 Step led line dancing lessons for World AIDS Day participants.

Attendees were provided with free event t-shirts and merchandise, risk reduction supplies, and educational material from partner organizations. Attendees were provided with refreshments, desserts, and charcuterie from the Pittsburgh Pride Group, Mami’s Bakes, BB&Bur, and Chef Randy Smith.

The event concluded with a dance party produced by DarK Sound, Honcho, and DJ Huny XO. For many community members, dance floors and ballrooms continue to be a special space to gather, to celebrate, and to support each other. AFP and partners recognize that community building and sharing joy through activities

like dancing together are valuable and essential parts of any movement, including efforts to end the HIV epidemic.

JHF Helps to Launch Pennsylvania Maternal Health Policy Collaborative

With statewide partners, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation helped to launch a Maternal Health Policy Collaborative to develop a prioritized list of recommendations for private and public stakeholders to rally around in 2024.

Over 25 maternal health organizations joined the growing policy collaborative and submitted their top three priorities prior to the first meeting on December 4. During the first meeting, the members discussed the two most frequently submitted priorities in the survey – reimbursement for doulas and creation of a perinatal behavioral health access program.

The intent of the collaborative is to enhance the existing work of perinatal health organizations across the Commonwealth and prioritize policies that could be acted on in one year's time. The collaborative's goal is to unite around a collective plan, which will be unveiled on PA Maternal Health Awareness Day January 23, 2024.

The following organizations are participating in the policy collaborative: Access Matters, Allies for Children, American College of Nurse-Midwives, Pennsylvania Section of Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab, CoCoLife Black, Healthy Start, IMPLICIT Network, March of Dimes, Maternal & Family Health Services, Maternity Care Coalition, MCS Strategies, Patients R Waiting, PA WIC Association, Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, Pennsylvania Doula Commission, Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative, PGH Black Birth Workers, Philadelphia Health Partnership Foundation for Healthy Communities, The Alliance for Health Equity, Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (PA ACOG), The Birthing Hut, The Foundation for Delaware County, The Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), Thriving PA,

The collaborative is open to all maternal and perinatal health stakeholder groups that would like to join and band together. New members can join and submit their priorities by completing the [survey here](#).



Members on the inaugural collaborative meeting in December.

Teen Mental Health Collaborative Gathers for Year-End Quarterly Meeting

The Teen Mental Health Collaborative gathered on December 11th at Allegheny Family Network for the final quarterly meeting of the year. Thirty-five participants representing 18 youth-serving organizations, nonprofits offering mental health advocacy and support, and school-based programs shared updates about their programs, challenges, and lessons learned. The collaborative offers a space for networking, peer-to-peer learning, shared advocacy, and access to training and skills development resources related to mental health.

Ruth Fox, CEO of Allegheny Family Network, shared the organization's programs and resources for supporting families, including Family Support Partners (FSPs) who offer advocacy and support to families navigating the mental health system. A new partnership between AFN and Western Behavioral Health will mobilize Family Peer Support services within Psychiatric Emergency Services at Western Psychiatric Hospital and as part of mobile crisis teams at resolve. AFN also supports the [Highlands Partnership Network in the operation of The Teen Spot](#), which offers a safe, supportive after school space for youth in Natrona Heights.

Dana Heisel from the University of Pittsburgh Maximizing Adolescent Potential Program, Kara Petrosky from the Boys and Girls Club of Western PA, and Misty Woody from Highlands Partnership Network Teen Spot shared resources and lessons learned for preventing and responding to community violence. Afterschool is a critical time for supporting teens and safe spaces in these organizations proactively address concerns around violence by offering peer-to-peer mediation and support for youth. Speakers noted the importance of community violence interrupters and leveraging the trusted relationships of adults who know the community to help mediate conflicts. In a recent ranking survey, youth identified creation of a job fair to connect teens to minority business owners, safe after school spaces, programs for skill development in conflict mediation and overall coping strategies, and grief rehabilitation programs as priority responses to addressing community violence for youth.

The collaborative also discussed 2024 youth advocacy opportunities through the PA Youth Advocacy Network, learned about resources available through Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, and participated in an interactive art therapy-based activity around setting intentions. The group will meet again in March 2024.



Ruth Fox, CEO of Allegheny Family Network (AFN), welcomes Teen Mental Health Collaborative members to AFN's new trainings space and shares more information about their programs.

New Up Next for Patient Safety Episode Looks Toward the Future

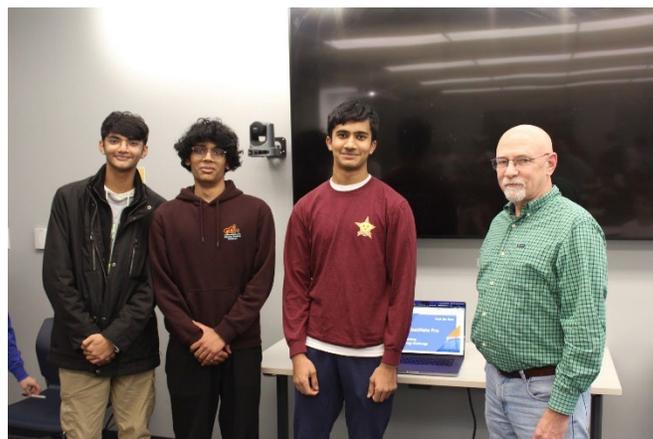
Today's healthcare landscape is rife with challenges, many of which threaten the systems as we know them. But what impact will the challenges of today have on the industry going forward, and where can we find glimpses of hope? Listen to futurist Ian Morrison and host Karen Wolk Feinstein dive into the business of health care and the innovations that hold the promise to transform it—for both patients and providers. [Listen now.](#)



New Patient Safety Technology Winners Announced in December

The Patient Safety Technology Challenge (PSTC) announced the winners of Hack the Nest and OSF Healthcare's Patient Safety Technology Trailblazer, sponsored events that took place this month.

Hack the Nest, the DC, Maryland, Virginia (DMV) area's largest high school hackathon, was held on December 9-10 in Sterling, Virginia. HealMate Pro won the \$500 prize for the best patient safety project. The team was inspired by the workshop on patient safety, that was presented by Ralph Johnson who also served as a mentor and judge. Johnson is the Vice President of Informatics and Technology at The Leapfrog Group and serves on Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's 's PSTC Advisory Board. HealthMate Pro aims to help monitor patients at the bedside by tracking patient movements to visualize and report potential issues in real time.



The Hack the Nest winning team with judge Ralph Johnson (far right).

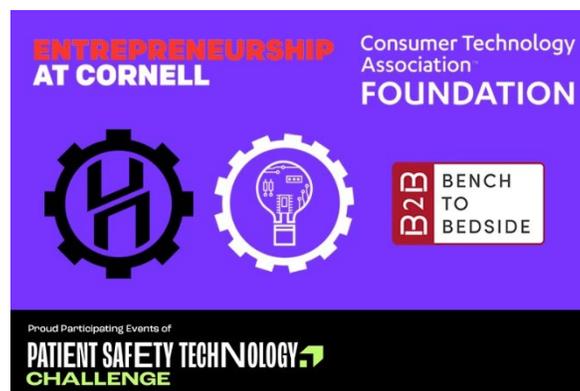
The Patient Safety Technology Trailblazer competition, hosted by OSF Healthcare, a nonprofit Catholic healthcare organization that operates 15 hospitals and other facilities in Illinois and Michigan, picked the winning team to receive \$10,000 in December.

The competition invited 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. The winning project was "The New Pill Box: How Artificial Intelligence Can Increase Patient Understanding and Adherence of Their Medications."

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](#).

Five 2024 Competitions Added to the Patient Safety Technology Challenge

Four new competitions and one returning competition, Bench to Bedside, have been added to the Patient Safety Technology Challenge for 2024. Funded by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and administered by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI), 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.



The Consumer Technology Association (CTA) Foundation will host its annual [CTA Foundation Pitch Competition](#) at CES 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 10, 2024. The Patient Safety Technology Challenge serves as a partner sponsor and will provide a prize of \$2,000 for the best tech-enabled patient safety solution.

Last year PRHI supported [Bench to Bedside](#) (B2B) and were thrilled with the engagement of the students across Utah. B2B is a student-led health care innovation competition hosted by the University of Utah Health's Center for Medical Innovation. Multi-disciplinary student teams are invited to develop novel solutions to healthcare problems over a seven-month period. Teams work with university physicians, engineers, and business professionals to bring ideas from concept to creation, all while analyzing the patent landscape, determining a regulatory pathway, and developing a go-to-market strategy.

The B2B program is excited to, for the second year in a row, emphasize patient safety, allowing students to solve one of the five leading patient safety challenges facing health care delivery. The program kicked off in September and patient safety experts have been invited to the Networking with Experts events in November 2023 and February 2024 to ensure students have access to subject matter experts. The final submission date is March 24 and the B2B Competition Night will take place at the Utah State Capital building in Salt Lake City on April 8, 2024.

The tenth anniversary of [IDEA Hacks](#), the premier hardware-focused hackathon on the West Coast, will be hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) Student Branch at UCLA, a professional student-run engineering organization. IDEA Hacks, a 36-hour event held on January 12-14, 2024, will provide hundreds of students from both UCLA and local universities and community colleges with the opportunity to develop their own tangible products. This year's theme "Celebrating Our Communities" will encourage students to embrace their unique backgrounds and create something that will improve or benefit their communities, surroundings, and environments. There will be a separate focus on patient safety where students are

encouraged to create devices that help to reduce preventable harm from medical errors. This track will be integrated into any of their existing tracks, and exemplary projects will be awarded an additional prize by their judges.

IrvineHacks 2024 is Orange County's largest collegiate hackathon taking place from January 26th-28 at University of California, Irvine (UCI). Hosted by Hack at UCI and in its tenth iteration, this event provides hackers with the opportunity to develop groundbreaking technical projects, network with well-known sponsors, engage in inspirational workshops from student organizations, and partake in social events. This year, Hack at UCI has partnered with PRHI to host a special prize category called the Patient Safety Technology Challenge.

The 2024 Cornell Health Hackathon is an in-person interdisciplinary event in New York City that will bring together students from across degrees, majors, and schools. Weill Cornell Medicine reaches out to invite local students, for example, those from New York Presbyterian, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Mt. Sinai, Rockefeller Medical School, Hunter College Medical School, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NYU, and Columbia. The event will take place from March 8-10, 2024. The theme of the entire event this year will be patient safety tech. On Friday evening, teams comprised of medical, business, engineering, data science, developers, and design students will create solutions to improve patient safety. On Saturday, mentors will provide feedback and guidance to teams. On Sunday, the hackathon culminates in a project showcase to an audience of peers, mentors, and sponsors. A panel of judges selects winners and awards \$10,000 to the winning teams.

Learn more about these competitions [here](#).

Applications Are Open for 2024 Summer Internships at JHF

Graduate students who are passionate about innovations in healthcare delivery, policy, and patient safety can pursue their interests through paid summer internship opportunities with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and its supporting organizations. The application deadline for those interested in a summer internship at JHF is March 29, 2024. [Apply now.](#)



JHF Program Specialist Pauline Taylor Announces Retirement

During her seven years at JHF, Pauline Taylor, CQIA has supported the Patient Centered Medical Home initiative, Centers of Excellence project, served as a quality improvement coach in the [Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative \(PA PQC\)](#), and contributed to the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's flagship Lean process improvement methodology, Perfecting Patient CareSM.

"I feel like joining the Foundation was a culmination of all of the things I've known and loved all of my life with 35 years in health care," Taylor said, adding that quality improvement runs in her family with her father working as a quality inspector and her son working as a quality engineer.

Before joining JHF, she was a practice director for more than two decades at Genesis Medical Associates, where she supervised a team of providers, implemented new quality improvement and technology initiatives to expand the scope of practice, and helped them achieve Patient Centered Medical Home status.

In her time at the Foundation, Taylor said her work with PA PQC has been the most meaningful because she feels that it's the area she has made the most impact by meeting regularly with staff doing the work at hospitals and being able to influence healthcare delivery and outcomes by proposing and helping implement quality improvement tools. However, she said that one of the first projects she was given at JHF – the [Virtual Senior Academy](#) – also holds special meaning for her because it was one of her first projects when joining JHF and it gave her the chance to be recognized as representing JHF for the first time and to work with partner organizations around the city, introducing an innovative program.

"One area I feel I've done very well with at the Foundation is making connections between the various programs I have worked on to strengthen and improve each," Taylor said.

While she may be looking forward to retirement, she said her commitment to quality improvement isn't something she'll be able to – or would want to – shut off in herself, however it will be redirected to learning more deeply about other cultures.

Beyond her love of travel, she said the journeys ahead are inspired by her father, whose biggest regret was not using his retirement as he should of because he thought he had more time.

"I need to do what I can to not feel that way," Taylor said. "I intend to live my best life."

Her travel itinerary for 2024 is set. Her first stop is Belize. Then onward to see her son and grandson in Maryland. Then to Australia for three months where she's rented a camper van to travel. Then to England with her mother. Onward to Singapore with her cousin. Bali in October and November. And she recently added Rome in January 2025.



Pauline poses with wild kangaroo inhabiting a campground during a past trip to Australia.

“I’m not going as a tourist but to live in the world and be a part of their lives and understand their cultures better. I’m not going as a traveler but as a world nomad,” Taylor said who excitedly said that she’s traveling on a backpacker’s budget.

While she prepares to hit the open road, she reflected on her work with colleague Jennifer Condel, a space filled with laughter and ideas about quality improvement.

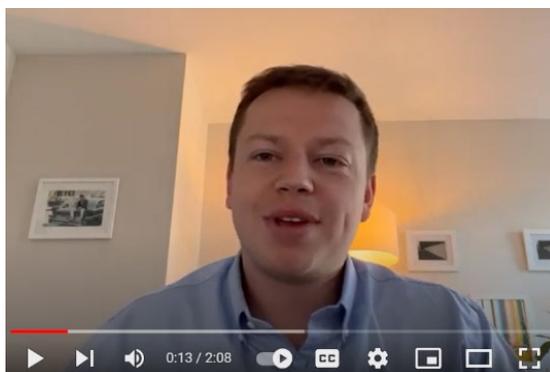
“I’ve loved the relationships I’ve developed over the years with my teammates. I have friendships now with such a variety of people who work here. Friendships that continue outside of the Foundation and hopefully will continue in retirement,” Taylor said with equal gratitude that JHF allowed her the flexibility to create her own job description and to delve into projects that she was passionate about and which reflected her strengths, including her work with the PQC, Safer Childbirth Cities, and the Perinatal Champions program.

“This has been the best part of my career, more than I could possibly have hoped for,” Taylor said.

Feinstein Fellowship Alumni Spotlight: Callum Harding

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

Callum Harding is a Data Engineer at Holmusk where he works to aggregate, standardize, and enrich mental and behavioral health real world data. He is also an OHDSI collaborator (Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics) and is working to standardize healthcare data globally within the open-source community. Harding is a Salk Health Activist Fellowship & Patient Safety Challenge Fellowship alumni and the winner of the 2023 Health Care Redesign Expo competition. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in bioinformatics and chemistry in 2021. Throughout his time in the fellowships, Harding has gained a better understanding of how policy is an influential medium to correctly fix systemic issues in the public health space as well as the size of the impact patient safety problems have on the healthcare system.



Callum Harding shares his experience participating in two of the Feinstein Fellowships.

[Watch his video about his experience in the fellowships.](#)

Steve Wray and Christian Manders Offer Keys to Elevate Pittsburgh as an Innovation Hub

Jewish Healthcare Foundation spoke with two longtime collaborators and current members of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) Advisory Board to discuss the potential for Pittsburgh as a national hub for patient safety innovation, the strength of its research institutions and other facets of the region, and what it will take for the region for the Steel City to continue to evolve into its collaborative best.



Pictured: Left, Carnegie Mellon University Block Center for Technology and Society Executive Director Steve Wray, MS, and right, Promethean Life Sciences Executive Director Christian Manders.

Steve Wray, MS, is the executive director of the [Carnegie Mellon University Block Center for Technology and Society](#), a University-wide applied research center focused on the responsible use of artificial intelligence and the future of work. His work there covers a wide range of economic activities and sectors as he works across all seven colleges and CMU's Software Engineering Institute on seed fund projects and examining the public policy and social implications of the use of advanced technology.

Wray earned his bachelor's in public policy analysis at Duke University, master's in public policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University, and earned his executive education in strategic perspectives in nonprofit management at Harvard Business School.

He returned to Pittsburgh and CMU nine months ago after 28 years in Philadelphia leading a regional economic development nonprofit and as a partner in an economic consulting firm. During his time as executive director at the Pennsylvania Economy League, Wray worked closely with JHF on a Medicaid expansion project in 2014 with the [Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative](#), leading the work on the paper that made the case. He also spent 12 years on the board and as chair of the Healthcare Improvement Foundation, an organization dedicated to reducing errors and improving the quality of health care in the greater Philadelphia region through a partnership with the major hospitals and insurers in the city.

"Thinking about technology and autonomy in health care is something that is both really relevant and potentially game changing," Wray said of the RAPS initiative. "Pittsburgh has an incredible group of entrepreneurial leaders. It was a big institution city and a big company city and has had to really reinvent itself in terms of thinking about what the next economy might be, where that might start, and what it takes to make it happen. I think the challenge for Pittsburgh is taking advantage of the assets, connecting it to the people who are here and making the case to the people who aren't here that this is the place to be."

With over two decades of experience developing and commercializing medical products, Christian Manders has served as the Chief Operating Officer of Promethean Life Sciences since 1997, after he earned his bachelor's in history at Yale University. He has served on JHF's [Liftoff PGH](#) Advisory

Board. When he moved to Pittsburgh over 20 years ago, the life sciences sector was very young. Manders added that it is still young but benefits from Pittsburgh having a wellspring of professionals with science skills.

“If you’re going to build a region, you need good engineers and scientists. You want to build with good science, and we have that in spades. Pitt is over \$1 billion in science research and number 3 in NIH (National Institute of Health) funding, and Carnegie Mellon is one of the leading AI, machine learning, robotics, and computer science groups,” Manders said. “Where we lack is we’re not good at translating that basic science into successful companies....And I’m really bullish that we need more management talent, like a thousand people who can do this. It’s really hard to do.”

Manders said the region’s identified weakness is its need – and willingness -- to recruit top notch senior management to run biotech companies. He said he is starting to see this improve in the region, and there have been some recent multi-billion-dollar life sciences successes. He said getting this top talent into the region is what is going to move the needle in Pittsburgh and raise its profile as an industry leader. “The places with the best scientific and business talent win,” he said.”

He is also working hard to convene and harness the energy around biotech innovation that already exists in Pittsburgh with his weekly BioBreakfast gathering, held Tuesdays from 8-10am at the Rivera Building at 350 Technology Drive, where people interested in life sciences network.

Wray also said Pittsburgh’s strengths are the concentration of medical power of both UPMC and Allegheny Health Network and the research dollars they attract. Combined with the technical capacity and capabilities of CMU, Pitt, and Penn State University, Pittsburgh can “punch above its weight,” according to Wray.

“Making the case for Pittsburgh as a healthcare innovation city is a new marketing pitch. It’s not the historic pictures of molten steel being poured out of a big urn and being turned into ingots. It’s microscopic technology, artificial intelligence, data use, innovations in robotic medical devices, and more that can really lead to the next generation of how we do health care not just in America but in the world,” said Wray. He added, “Pittsburgh is a gritty but smart town. The healthcare challenges we’re facing are not insignificant. It’s going to take hard work, diligence, rolling up your sleeves, long hours, and significant investment to take on the challenges of an aging population dealing with communicable diseases, pandemics, all the challenges we face and will face in the future.”

In terms of regional branding, Wray added that means talking a little more boldly about our assets and strengths and not being willing to accept that we shouldn’t be in the conversation when it comes to leading regions in healthcare innovation and healthcare development. It also means engaging Pittsburghers in a more forthright and forward-thinking conversation about future job opportunities.

Wray said the boundaries between CMU and Pitt continue to blur as the two institutions physically grow toward one another in Oakland, and as they meet up in other physical spaces like Mill 19, Hazelwood Green, or Bakery Square, where both institutions are planning for advanced research solutions.

“It gives us the opportunity to intentionally collaborate. I think in healthcare in particular this is a real opportunity because CMU’s advanced work in robotics and data information systems and autonomy and artificial intelligence combines greatly with the work of UPMC and University of Pittsburgh in sciences and the life sciences as well.” – Wray “And I think you’re starting to see that work happen.”

When asked to think about Pittsburgh at its collaborative best, Wray identified Pittsburgh’s efforts in the Regional Build Back Better Challenge, an 11-county effort that secured \$63 million in funding from the federal government to build the ecosystem around robotics and autonomy in Pittsburgh, including workforce development. At the Block Center, Wray is at the frontlines of this work convening companies, regional nonprofits, universities, and other community partners in a united effort.

“What’s exciting about it is there’s going to be a lot of different entryways into these fields and we’ve got to be smart and creative in how we help folks find those opportunities,” Wray said.

More generally, Wray said holding on to outdated visions of what the region should be and an unwillingness to accept change and new leadership will impact the region’s growth, as well as not making an intentional, committed, and concerted effort to ensure this growth is inclusive, both racially, socioeconomically, but also geographically to include more rural communities which were once thriving industries and have the potential to move into a new economy.

“The ecosystem here has come a long way, but it has a long way to go. We need a cultural shift,” said Manders, stressing the importance for the region to be bold and take on more risk while rewarding those willing to take calculated leaps to innovate. “If you’re going to form these companies, the risk is that they’re going to fail. We need to help incentivize people to take financial risk to support these companies.”

“In Silicon Valley they’re fighting to get into deals. Here it’s like a hot potato being passed around. We need to get some wins and elevate our risk profile so that people are willing to take more risks,” Manders said. “We fundamentally have to get better at making money and having successful translations that positively affect patients.”

JHF Staff Welcome Babies in December

Two JHF staff members welcomed babies in December. Wren Josephine Cobb (left) was born December 7 to Women’s Health Grants Specialist Alaina Conner, MPPM and Samuel Taylor Roth (right) was born December 6 to HIV/AIDS Program Officer Emma Seagle, MPH.



JHF Celebrates the Holidays at The Frick Pittsburgh

On December 14, JHF staff spent the day at The Frick Pittsburgh, participating in docent-guided tours of *Home for the Holidays at Clayton* and the exhibit *Pittsburgh and the Great Migration: Black Mobility and the Automobile*, followed by lunch onsite.

All of us at JHF wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

