



HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTER

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Health Services Research Center

Department of Medicine
and Department of Surgery



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MISSION

To advance healthcare access, quality, value, and outcomes of all patients and populations through scientific inquiry and innovative solutions.

VISION

Be a national leader in advancing innovative health services research.

GOALS

Strategic Goal 1: Conduct and disseminate innovative and impactful research to improve value and care for all persons.

Strategic Goal 2: Prepare the next generation of health services research leaders.

Strategic Goal 3: Provide resources and infrastructure to drive efficiency and effectiveness of health services research.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Rachel Patzer, PhD, MPH
Professor
Director, HSR Center
Department of Medicine
Department of Surgery
Emory University School of Medicine

It has been 3 years since the launch of our Strategic Plan to form the Health Services Research Center in the Emory University School of Medicine Department of Medicine and Department of Surgery. While our world has changed substantially in many ways, our mission, vision, and goals remain the same. In the face of a global pandemic and its wide ranging impact, social reckoning of racial injustice, and the long deserved attention in medicine on diversity, equity, and inclusion, our mission to advance healthcare access and outcomes for patients and populations seems even more critically important today than when we began. I continue to be humbled and honored to work closely with the faculty, trainees, staff, and community partners who are engaged with the Health Services Research Center and conducting research to

address critical population health, policy, and clinical problems that impact populations, both locally here at Emory, as well as nationally. Select examples of research conducted by our HSR Center faculty and trainees are included in this first annual report of our center. Despite the problems our healthcare systems and populations face, I am inspired by the perseverance and dedication of all who are engaged in conducting impactful health services research and supporting our students and trainees through teaching.

Health Services Research Funding



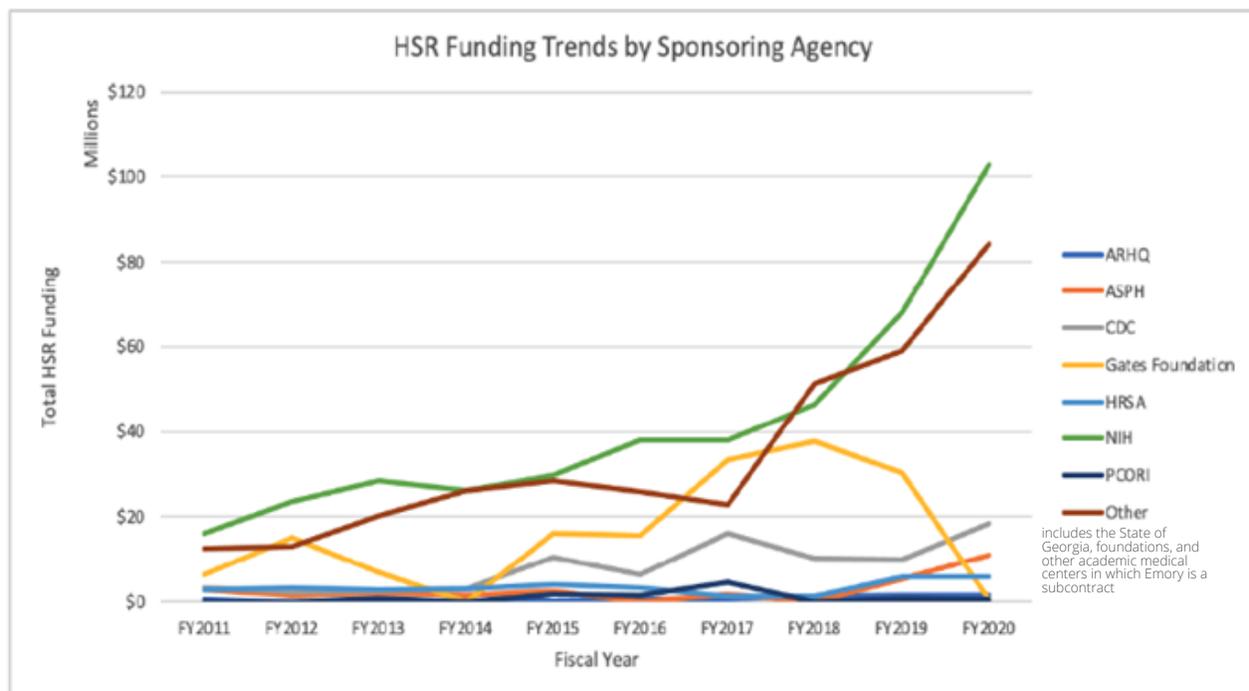
The Health Services Research Center is designed to deliver patient-centered outcomes through the promotion of health services research and aligns academic research with clinical care delivery. To do this, our center looks to identify a range of potential funding opportunities that fit within the large span of health services research topics that our faculty and trainees are engaged in within the Department of Medicine and the Department of Surgery.

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH FUNDING LANDSCAPE:

Since beginning the Health Services Research Center, we have seen a steady increase in funding for health services research related projects at Emory. HSR grant funding for Fiscal Year 2020 for all of Emory was \$224.5M, representing ~27% of all Emory grant funding and a \$43.6M (24%) increase from FY19. The National Institute of Health is the largest federal agency currently sponsoring Emory's health services research followed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and the Health Resources and Services Agency (HRSA). Other large agencies that sponsor this area of research include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The increase in funding opportunities combined with the changing landscape for healthcare models present new opportunities for growth and expansion in health services research within the Emory University community.

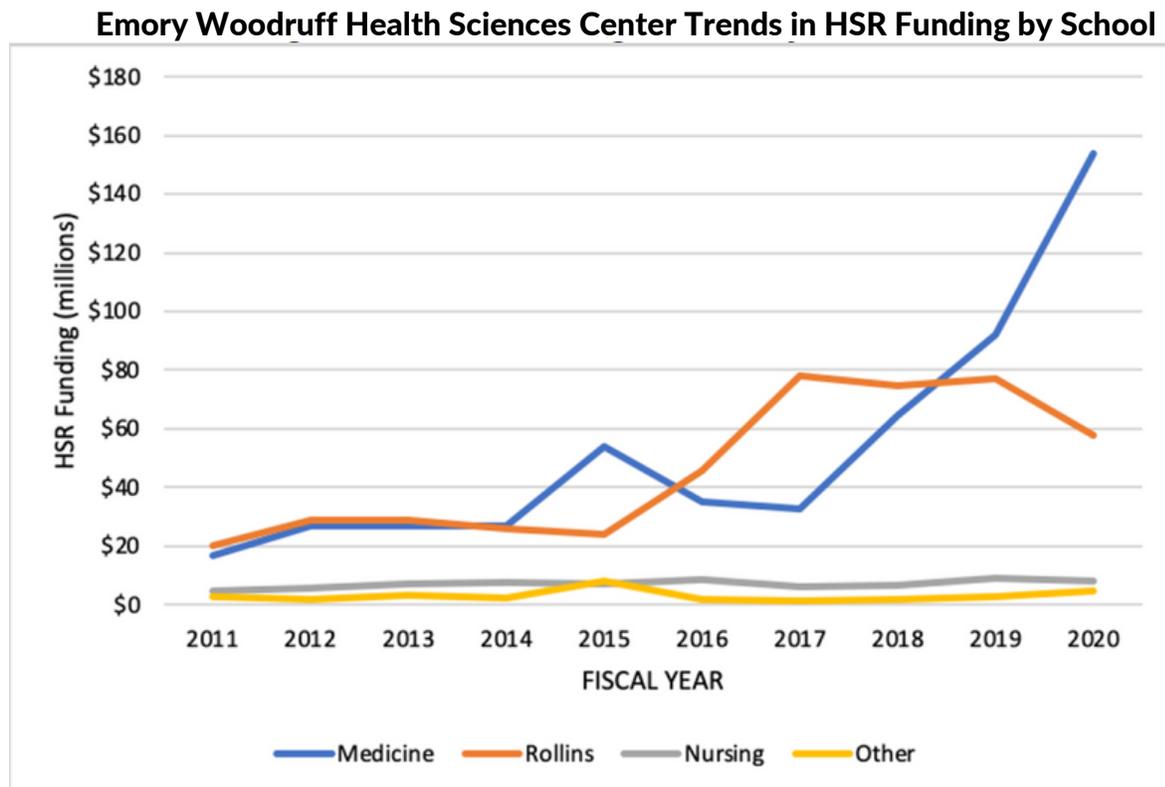
Emory Woodruff Health Sciences Center Trends in Funding for Health Services Research



Emory University Healthcare Innovation Program Annual Report, 2021

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH FUNDING AT EMORY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

As funding for health services research increased, the Emory School of Medicine saw increased activity in the form of grant proposals and awarded sponsored research. In partnership with the Healthcare Innovation Program, the Health Services Research Center has tracked health services research funding at the university since 2017. As illustrated in the figure, health services research within the School of Medicine has grown exponentially since the inception of the Health Services Research Center. The School of Medicine leads HSR funding across Emory (~\$154 million in FY20). The overall trends in the field of research, combined with the current growth in sponsored research activity at Emory, represents an extraordinary opportunity for the School of Medicine and Emory University as a whole to become a leader in the field of health services research.



Emory University Healthcare Innovation Program Annual Report, 2021

INCREASING RESEARCH CAPACITY

Health services research is a highly collaborative field and much of success and preeminence depends on having a broad network of collaborations and administrative support. Large infrastructure grants can provide the necessary critical infrastructure for investigators to participate in larger, national projects. In 2021, the Health Services Research Center focused efforts on building operations, research infrastructure, and collaborations to support the School of Medicine researchers, and worked diligently towards our mission of building partnerships with other schools at the university which could be leveraged for high impact research.



National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases P30:

The HSR Center partnered with the Georgia Center for Diabetes Translation Research Center (PI: Venkat Narayan, Professor & Chair, Global Health) in the Rollins School of Public Health to design an evaluation and implementation science core focused on health equity. This program grant brings resources for investigators interested in diabetes research, such as pilot grants, data, internships, and mentorship. The HSR Center Co-Directs the Evaluation and Implementation Core with RSPH faculty Mohammed Ali (Professor, Global Health)

NIH Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery: The HSR Center co-lead an effort to submit a proposal to NIH OTA-21-015B in partnership with the Division in Infectious Disease (Igho Ofotokun) and external partners Kaiser Permanente of GA, Morehouse School of Medicine, Grady Hospital, and the Atlanta VA. The RECOVER meta-cohort will enroll nearly 20,000 individuals across the country to study Post-Acute COVID-19 Sequelae (PASC), or long COVID. Phase I was awarded June 2021, and Phase II was awarded for ~19 million in Oct 2021.



National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network OneFlorida: The HSR Center (site PIs; Rachel Patzer, with Department of Biomedical Informatics Professor Gari Clifford) were awarded a subcontract to join the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium, PCORnet, an integrated partnership of clinical research networks and research ecosystem to offer real-world data to conduct health services research. Emory Healthcare will begin submitting data in Winter 2022.

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH SPONSORED RESEARCH

In 2021, our Health Services Research Center supported a pilot grants program to assist early-stage investigators in the Department of Medicine and the Department of Surgery in gathering preliminary data in support of applications for larger external funding. We anticipate this program will continue to grow and led to new opportunities and larger extramurally funded projects.

First Surgery HSR Pilot Grant:

Department of Surgery Dr. Olamide Alabi's "Examining Ninety-Day Outcomes Following Lower Extremity Revascularization for Peripheral Artery Disease: A Pilot Project Using the Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI-Linked-Medicare Database)" was funded by the HSR Center in 2021.

Co-I: Jessica Harding, PhD (methodologist)



Olamide Alabi, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery

2021 Department of Medicine HSR FAME Grant:

Dr. Kunal Bhatt's proposal, "Improving Care for Patients with Hereditary Transthyretin Cardiac Amyloidosis: An Urgent Health Equity Issue", was selected for funding by the Department of Medicine Fostering the Academic Mission at Emory (FAME) HSR Grant in spring 2021 and was paired with an HSR Center Intern.

HSR Center Intern support



Kunal Bhatt, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Medicine

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH SPONSORED RESEARCH

Joint SEED Funding with the Healthcare Innovation Program

The Emory-Georgia Tech Healthcare Innovation Program (HIP), in partnership with the HSR Center, offers seed grant opportunities for students and faculty. Projects funded are multidisciplinary, and involve innovative research and education to address issues of healthcare quality, costs, and/or access. This program allows for the support of preliminary data for cutting edge research on topics such as racism in healthcare and the impact of social determinants of health within a clinical setting. Below are highlighted examples of funded research over the last year which involve HSR Center faculty:

2021 Social Determinants and Disparities Award

Dr. Gazmararian's proposal, "Contributions of Social Determinants of Health to Susceptibility and Severity of COVID-19 Across the U.S.", was selected for funding by the Healthcare Innovation Program for her research related to the effects of social determinants of health on COVID-19 outcomes in the Atlanta VA population.

Submitted in partnership with Dr. Lawrence Phillips, Department of Medicine



Julie Gazmararian, PhD, MPH
Professor
Rollins School of Public Health

2021 Outcomes and Evaluations, Population Safety and Risk Award

Dr. Cook's proposal, "Psychological Effects of Long COVID on Healthcare Workers" was funded in 2021 for her project examining the mental health impacts on providers of treating patients with long COVID. *Submitted in partnership with Drs. Tiffany Walker and Alexander Truong in the Department of Medicine*



Sarah Cook, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychiatry and
Behavioral Science



Health Services Research Center
Department of Medicine
and Department of Surgery

NEWLY FUNDED RESEARCH



**Nader Massarweh, MD,
MPH**
Associate Professor
Department of Surgery

Nader Massarweh, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, and Chief of Surgery at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, recently received an R01 grant from the National Institute of Health for his proposal, "Using modern data science methods & advanced analytics to improve the efficiency, reliability, and timeliness of surgical quality data".

Existing national surgical quality improvement programs have not significantly updated their processes for data collection, data analysis, or providing feedback to stakeholders in decades. Alternative strategies that could be implemented within quality improvement programs' current infrastructure could make these programs more timely, efficient, and effective. The overall goal of this proposal is to evaluate alternative, potentially more efficient strategies that can be readily implemented within the existing infrastructure of contemporary surgical QI programs and aid in the more efficient flow of data. This mixed-methods proposal will evaluate the extent to which such alternative approaches could be used to improve existing national surgical quality improvement programs.



Megan Urbanski, PhD, MSW
Post-Doctoral Fellow
Department of Surgery

Megan Urbanski, PhD, MSW, HSR Center Post-Doctoral Fellow, received a TL1 grant for her project "Exploring COVID-19 Vaccine Perspectives Among Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease."



Katie Ross-Driscoll, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery

Katie Ross-Driscoll, PhD MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery received a KL2 mentored clinical and translational research grant from the Georgia CTSA. Dr. Ross-Driscoll's research for this award will focus on identifying the factors that influence liver transplant waitlisting among hepatocellular carcinoma patients with end-stage liver disease in Georgia. The results could influence future interventions to increase access to liver transplantation and reduce potential inequity among patients in the Southeast.



Collaborations to Grow Research



Since its inception, the Emory Health Services Research Center has focused on creating high impact partnerships throughout the university and with other health systems and programs aligned with health services research. These partnerships combine resources and data to answer innovative and complex questions that drive forward the field of health services research.

New Partnerships with Kaiser Permanente



Jessica Harding,
PhD



Jennifer Gander,
PhD, MSPH

July 2020: Dr. Jennifer Gander at Kaiser Permanente of Georgia (KPGA) received a Garfield Memorial Foundation grant for her proposal, “Understanding Racial Disparities in COVID-19 symptoms, infection and outcomes in KPGA and KPMAS” in partnership with Dr. Jessica Harding (DOS/DOM) as coinvestigator.



Felipe Lobelo, MD,
PhD, FAHA



Jessica Fairley,
MD, MPH

December 2020: Drs. Felipe Lobelo and Jessica Fairley received the first I3 Synergy Award for their project, “Identification of Sub-Clinical Infection in Children in the setting of COVID-19 Household Transmission: Implications for Testing Capacity, Active Surveillance and Prevention.”

March 2021: KPGA, the Atlanta VA and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta joined as sites on the collaborative proposal for the Post-Acute COVID-19 Sequelae (RECOVER) NIH submission

November 2020: Dr. Jessica Harding received a WHSC CURE grant for her proposal, “Racial Disparities in COVID-19: A Novel, Population-Based Cohort to Advance COVID-19 Research,” submitted in partnership with KPGA. These research collaborations have led to data sharing across KPGA and Emory Healthcare, new research, and extramural funding submissions.

Conducting Impactful Health Services Research



The Health Services Research Center provides support to investigators who need assistance with study design, HSR data access, data analysis, grant writing, and manuscript writing to help investigators both conduct, disseminate, and implement impactful health services research.

Impactful Health Services Research

Changing National Policy to Reduce Disparities in Transplant



Raymond Lynch, MD
Associate Professor
Department of Surgery

Dr. Lynch's work focuses on understanding and improving the performance of the healthcare organizations responsible for organ recovery (organ procurement organizations, OPOs). Previously, Dr. Lynch, together with Dr. David Goldberg at the University of Miami, showed how epidemiologic trends relate to changes in organ procurement. CMS subsequently adopted Drs. Lynch and Goldberg's novel metric for OPO performance into new conditions for participation in 2021. Additional work by Drs. Lynch and Goldberg highlighted the role of OPO clinical practice in observed differences in minority racial and ethnic patients' access to organ donation care, which was cited by CMS as foundational for the rejection of race-based adjustments to performance measures.

Together with Ms. Brianna Doby at New Mexico State University and Dr. Katherine Ross-Driscoll of the Emory HSR Center, Dr. Lynch has since identified major opportunities for clinical improvements at both individual hospital systems, OPOs, and overall performance of the donation-transplant system.

Dr. Raymond Lynch and Dr. Katie Ross-Driscoll's work, "[Public discourse and policy change: Absence of harm from increased oversight and transparency in OPO performance](#)" published in the *American Journal of Transplantation* in 2021 led to change in Transplant Quality Metrics & CMS Policy for how Organ Procurement Organizations are regulated.

More about this study:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced changes to the Final Rule for organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in November 2020, after a 23-month period of public debate. This was sparked by a concern among transplant stakeholders that public focus on OPO underperformance would decrease donation. Researchers including our own Dr. Raymond Lynch and Dr. Katie Ross-Driscoll studied whether donation performance dropped during the era of intense public health debate and regulatory changes about OPO reform using CDC-WONDER data. It was discovered that performance during this era yielded 692 additional donors over expectations, and no detriment to organ donation was observed.

Impactful Health Services Research

Ethics and Equity in Allocating Critical Care Resources



Katie Ross-Driscoll,
PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery

In July of 2020, the HSR Center was approached by the director of Emory Healthcare's Triage Operations Committee. Emory had begun planning for the ethical allocation of resources in the event that the hospital was overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a part of the HSR Center, Dr. Katie Ross-Driscoll joined the Emory Healthcare Triage Operations Committee to evaluate allocation plans. Using data from admitted patients across Emory hospitals, the health services researchers tested whether various allocation criteria would disproportionately impact underserved patients. The findings were used to inform Emory Healthcare's allocation planning still in use today, and results were published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* in 2021.

"[Evaluating Approaches to Improve Equity in Critical Care Resource Allocation in the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)". This also resulted in a panel presentation at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities in October 2021.

More about this study:

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has forced healthcare systems to develop strategies to allocate critical care resources when demand outstrips supply and has disproportionately impacted Black patients for whom baseline health disparities are well documented and largely driven by inequity in social determinants of health. This research team including HSR Center faculty Katie Ross-Driscoll, PhD, MPH, David Murphy, MD, PhD, Neal Dickert Jr., MD, PhD, and other Emory researchers analyzed the distribution of allocation scores by patient race and modeled the impact of proposed modifications at four academic hospitals in Atlanta, Georgia. **The analyses conducted in this study underscore the need for empirical evaluation of allocation frameworks as they would be implemented and of proposed modifications to improve equity. They also reaffirm the need for continued research addressing resource allocation equity.**

Impactful Health Services Research

Racial Inequities in COVID-19 Health Services Utilization



Zanthia Wiley, MD
Associate Professor
Department of
Medicine

Dr. Zanthia Wiley worked closely with HSR Center faculty and staff to use the Cerner Real World Database (87 US health systems) HSR Cerner COVID-19 research resource to publish "Racial and Ethnic Differences and Clinical Outcomes of COVID-19 Patients Presenting to the Emergency Department", published in April 2021 in *Clinical Infectious Disease*. This study was supported by the HSR Center through faculty Dr. Rachel Patzer and Dr. Katie Ross-Driscoll, HSR Center analytical support Dr. Zhensheng Wang, and HSR Center intern support, Laken Smothers, MPH. **This study was also used as preliminary data for ~\$19mil NIH RECOVER (Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery) grant awarded to Emory School of Medicine in 2021, where Dr. Zanthia serves as a site PI of the Emory Hope Clinic study site (mPI: Igho Ofotokun and Rachel Patzer).**

More about this study:

Few large multi-hospital-system US studies have described clinical characters and outcomes of minority COVID-19 patients who present to the emergency department since the introduction of remdesivir and dexamethasone for severe COVID-19 treatment. The study sought to understand the racial and ethnic differences and clinical outcomes of COVID-19 patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) using a cohort study from the Cerner Real World Database (87 US health systems) that included PCR-confirmed COVID-19 patients who self-identified as non-Hispanic Black (Black), Hispanic White (Hispanic), or non-Hispanic White (White) from 1 December 2019 to 30 September 2020. The researchers found that minority patients were overrepresented among COVID-19 ED patients, and while their risks of hospitalization were similar to Whites, in-hospital mortality risk was higher. **The findings emphasize the need for interventions targeting upstream social determinants of health to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19.**

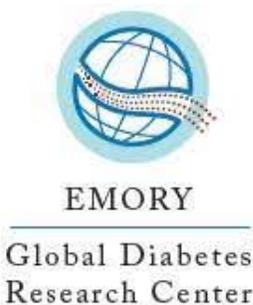
Impactful Health Services Research

Health Services Utilization for Heart Failure Patients with and Without Diabetes



Jessica Harding, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery

The HSR Center's Dr. Jessica Harding served as co-I on a research team including Emory Global Diabetes Research Center's Dr. K.M. Venkat Narayan and Dr. Ram Jagannathan on the study "Trends in inpatient admissions and emergency department visits for heart failure in adults with versus without diabetes in the USA, 2006-2017". This research was used as preliminary data for a Diabetes P30 Grant.



More about this study:

The reported declines in CVD among people with diabetes (both incidence and mortality) often do not include heart failure (HF) as an outcome, despite increasing recognition that HF is a major contributor to CVD morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs in people with diabetes. In this study, researchers estimated trends in the incidence of HF inpatient admissions and emergency department (ED) visits by diabetes status. Population-based age-standardized HF rates in adults with and without diabetes were estimated from the 2006-2017 National Inpatient Sample, Nationwide ED Sample and year-matched National Health Interview Survey, and stratified by age and sex. Trends were assessed using Joinpoint. Researchers found that HF inpatient admissions did not change in adults with diabetes between 2006 and 2013 but increased between 2013 and 2017. In adults without diabetes, inpatient admissions initially declined and then plateaued. Patterns were similar in men and women, but relative increases were greatest in young adults with diabetes. HF-related ED visits increased overall, in men and women, and in all age groups, but increases were greater in adults with (vs without) diabetes. **Causes of increased HF rates in hospital settings are unknown, and more detailed data are needed to investigate the etiology and determine prevention strategies, particularly among adults with diabetes and especially young adults with diabetes.**

Impactful Health Services Research

Venous Thromboembolism Among Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19



Olamide Alabi, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery

The HSR Center provided analytic support through staff member Mengyu Di, MSPH to support HSR Center pilot grant recipient Dr. Olamide Alabi. This HSR project "COVID-19-associated venous thromboembolism portends worse survival", was published in 2021 in the *Seminars of Vascular Surgery* in collaboration with vascular surgery resident Dr. Richard Meena as first author.

More about this study:

Patients with COVID-19 seem to be at high risk for venous thromboembolism (VTE) development, but there is a scarcity of data exploring both the natural history of COVID-19-associated VTE and the risk for poor outcomes after VTE development. Researchers aimed to explore the relationship between COVID-19-associated VTE development and mortality. A prospectively maintained registry of patients older than 18 years admitted for COVID-19-related illnesses within the Emory health system between March and September 2020 was reviewed. Codes from the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases for VTE were collected. The charts of those patients with a code for VTE were manually reviewed to confirm VTE diagnosis. There were 2,552 patients admitted with COVID-19-related illnesses. 4.9% developed a VTE. A disproportionate percentage of patients of Black race developed a VTE. A higher proportion of patients with VTE expired during their index hospitalization. On multivariable logistic regression analysis, VTE was independently associated with mortality. Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity was associated with decreased mortality. Hospitalized patients of Black race with COVID-19 were more prone to VTE development, and patients with COVID-19 who developed in-hospital VTE had roughly threefold higher odds of mortality. **Further emphasis should be placed on optimizing COVID-19 anticoagulation protocols to reduce mortality in this high-risk cohort.**

Impactful Health Services Research

Policy to Promote Shared Decision-Making



Neal Dickert, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Medicine

The HSR Center's Dr. Neal Dickert, in collaboration with Dr. David Howard of the Rollins School of Public Health and Drs. Birju Rao and Faisal Merchant of the Emory School of Medicine, published their research study conducted among Emory Healthcare patients who had an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator before and after the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services decision to mandate shared decision-making. Results of the study "[The impact of government-mandated shared decision-making for implantable defibrillators: A natural experiment](#)" were published in 2021.

More about this study:

In 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) mandated that patients considering implantation of an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) for primary prevention of sudden cardiac death undergo shared decision-making (SDM) using a decision-aid. Dr. Neal Dickert, in partnership with Dr. David Howard of the Rollins School of Public Health and Drs. Birju Rao and Faisal Merchant of the Emory School of Medicine, sought to observe the impact of the CMS's mandate on core measures of SDM using a natural experiment. Patients who underwent implantation of a primary prevention ICD within the Emory Healthcare system between 2017-2019 (pre and post SDM mandate) were surveyed. Survey domains included knowledge about the ICD, decisional conflict, values-choice concordance, and engagement in decision-making. Researchers found that there were no major differences between knowledge, decisional conflict, values choice concordance, or patient engagement among patients with ICD placement before and after the SDM mandate. Compared to patients with ICDs placed before the mandate, patients with ICDs after the mandate were more likely to subjectively feel more informed about the benefits of the procedure but were less likely to be able to correctly identify the frequency of complications. **Policy effects to promote SDM that solely focus on a decision-aid may not substantively impact patient centered care.**

REDESIGNING RESEARCH TEAMS

We pride ourselves on creating an innovative program where anyone can meet their fullest potential for a career in academic research. To accomplish this goal, we have intentionally focused on creating a new staffing model that would enable junior investigators to receive necessary support while simultaneously providing staff with meaningful opportunities to participate in research. Focusing on our mission, we have redesigned staff roles and developed new job titles that reflect scientific career tracks alongside creating opportunities for our talented employees to present original research within national forums. This has resulted in building staff trained as research professionals which can scientifically support high impact portfolios and advise with cultivated expertise in a variety of health services research methods.

Our talented staff include:

- Larissa Teunis, MPA, Director of Projects
- Tracy Obertone, PhD, Associate Director of Programs HSR
- Samantha Retzloff, MPH, Assistant Epidemiologist
- Hana Lee, MPH, Assistant Epidemiologist
- Mengyi Di, MSPH, Biostatistician
- Lisa Flowers, MA, MPA, Senior Program Coordinator



OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN OUR RESEARCH

We are continually growing and expanding our research team. The HSR Center offers opportunities for both staff and faculty to have a meaningful career in research. Please see below for some of current vacancies:

Assistant Epidemiologist

The HSR Center is seeking an Assistant Epidemiologist will be responsible for assisting with the program management and epidemiologic aspects of the NIH-funded Reducing Disparities in Access to Kidney Transplantation (RaDIANT) Studies with a focus on clinical epidemiology, social determinants of health, and health services research methods. The candidate will work closely with the Director of the Emory Health Services Research (HSR) Center, a cooperative initiative of the departments of medicine and surgery of the Emory University School of Medicine, which is committed to advancing healthcare access, quality of healthcare delivery, and health outcomes of patients and populations.

<https://staff-emory.icims.com/jobs/83749/assistant-epidemiologist/job>

Biostatistician

The biostatistician will be responsible for assisting research projects in the Emory Health Services Research (HSR) Center, a cooperative initiative of the departments of medicine and surgery of the Emory University School of Medicine, which is committed to advancing healthcare access, quality of healthcare delivery, and health outcomes of patients and populations. The staff member would work closely with the Director of the HSR Center, who has active funding in the area of health services research in kidney disease and transplantation, including the expansion of a national registry for early steps in transplant access and several large-scale pragmatic trials to reduce inequities in access to treatment for this patient population. The Biostatistician would work on these projects, in addition to other research by faculty throughout the departments of surgery and medicine related to health services research.

<https://staff-emory.icims.com/jobs/83752/biostatistician/job>



OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN OUR RESEARCH

Assistant Professor, HSR Department of Surgery

Emory University's Department of Surgery seeks a full-time epidemiologist or health services researcher at the rank of Assistant Professor to join a robust team centered on improving surgical health outcomes through innovative and rigorous scientific research. The incumbent will be associated with the Health Services Research Center within the School of Medicine, which includes a focus on developing pragmatic investigations around healthcare access and quality of care with applications in a number of potential surgical disciplines (e.g., pediatric surgery, oncology, GI, transplant, etc). Candidates should possess a strong interest in the field of health services research and have specific methodological expertise in at least one of the following areas: qualitative research methods, quality measurement and metrics, clinical decisions science, behavioral sciences, comparative effectiveness research, and/or dissemination & implementation research, with a developed emphasis in surgery health services and outcomes research.

<https://faculty-emory.icims.com/jobs/84709/assistant-professor--surgery%2c-health-services-research-center/job>



Training the Next Generation of Health Services Researchers



The Health Services Research Center is committed to training the next generation of researchers that bring forth new perspectives, creativity and ambition to solving the most important clinical research questions. This commitment is demonstrated through sincere and intentional efforts to diversify the field in terms of trainees and faculty in leadership roles. It is also illustrated in the way the HSR Center offers educational courses, seminars, and hands-on research experiences for students to enhance the robustness of their research. Ultimately, this underlies an unwavering commitment to creating a new class of academic health services researchers.

Networking and Training with the Network for Evaluation & Implementation Sciences at Emory



The Network for Evaluation and Implementation Sciences at Emory (NEISE) is a network that **encourages interdisciplinary research opportunities** to harness the intellectual resources of Emory University and Greater Atlanta to create solutions for sustainable and resilient communities, while enriching the faculty and student experience. To date, NEISE has sponsored 12 large scale grant submissions with 5 being funded which equates to ~\$2.9 million in funding.

What is NEISE?

- A **network** to bring rigorous implementation research opportunities, focused on resilience, to harness the intellectual resources of Emory and Greater Atlanta to create solutions for sustainable and resilient communities, while enriching the faculty and student experience.
- **Our Vision** is to transform our currently siloed approach to grant development by encouraging multi-sectoral, mixed-methods research capacity across traditionally distinct topic areas.

In January of 2021, HSR Co-Sponsored the “Behavioral Change Wheel: Systematically Develop and Evaluate Complex Interventions for Clinical and Community Research,” a four-part series for faculty in partnership with NEISE led by UCL Centre for Behavior Change.

The Health Services Research Center and NEISE will co-host more networking and training events in 2022 to continue facilitating key research partnerships and collaborations related to implementation science.

TRAINING WITH INNOVATION

Partnership with the Healthcare Innovation Program

The HSR Center is committed to training the next generation of researchers by providing resources to support education inside and outside of the classroom. The Emory-Georgia Tech Healthcare Innovation Program and the Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance are key partners in this arena, supporting new and upcoming investigator with access to study design and analytical support, didactic training and seed funding to pilot new and innovative research. Below are some highlighted activities from these partnerships:

MSCR/CPTR Training Supplement on Social and Behavioral Research

Over the last year, the HSR Center supported a training supplement to the Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA) clinical and translational research (CTR) training programs. The supplement provides funding for increased training in social and behavioral research methods for the Master's and Certificate in Clinical Research Programs by addressing a critical need for education in evaluation and implementation science methods. These methods enable research findings to be more readily implemented into practice thereby improving population health outcomes.



Health Services Research Course - MSCR 595

The HSR Center partnered with Dr. Fred Sanfilippo (HIP Director) to teach a course on health services research to predoctoral and medical students. This course included a broad introduction to this field of research and highlighted the importance of health services research in creating transformative models for healthcare.



Healthcare Innovation Program

SOM Discovery Research Epi and Statistics support (Drs. Victoria Garcia and Dong Li)

The HSR Center partnered with the School of Medicine Discovery program (Dr. Maureen Powers, Discovery Research Director, SOM) to support the analytical and epidemiologic needs of medical students rotating in the Discovery Phase of their medical education. These services are a key component of transforming a hypothesis into a medical or scientific manuscript.



Health Services Research Internship Program



The Health Services Research Center supports health services research investigators by facilitating access to graduate student interns through the Rollins Earn and Learn program. This creates a mutually beneficial relationship for practical research opportunities for students to participate in real world, practical health services research while providing support for faculty from a leading public health school. The internship program also provides a valuable forum for training the next generation of researchers and ensuring diversity in the field of academic medicine. Trainees rotating through the program are valuable scientific collaborators and go on to doctoral programs, medical school, or other influential positions throughout medicine and public health.

HSR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2020-2021 Projects and Partnerships



**Ariana Mora,
MD/PhD cand**



Randi Smith, MD, MPH

**COVID-19 impact on violence and
trauma at Grady Hospital**



Jon Gunasti, MPH cand



**Katie-Ross Driscoll,
PhD, MPH**

**Investigating domestic transplant
travel patterns with novel
geographic catchment areas**



Laken Smothers, MPH



Zanthia Wiley, MD

**COVID-19 and health
inequities in health outcomes**



Meredith Dixon, MPH



Felix Fernandez, MD



**Onkar Khullar,
MD, MSc**

**Thoracic Surgery Patient
Reported Outcomes**



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
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MEDICINE

Health Services Research Center
Department of Medicine
and Department of Surgery

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2021-2022 Interns and Projects



Emma Blythe

MPH Epidemiology candidate

Projects: Involved in Dr. Megan Urbanski's mixed methods study Exploring COVID-19 Vaccine Perspectives Among Patients with End-Stage Kidney Disease

Undergraduate: Cornell University



Benjamin Goldberg

MPH Epidemiology candidate

Projects: Working on CURE grant study related to COVID-19 racial disparities among Emory University Hospital and Kaiser Permanente patients

Undergraduate: Case Western Reserve University



Sofia Oviedo

MPH Epidemiology candidate

Projects: Working on RECOVER study team seeking to understand, prevent, and treat PASC, including Long COVID

Undergraduate: Texas A&M University



Alyssa Harvey

MPH Epidemiology candidate

Projects: Working on RaDIANT study to reduce disparities in access to kidney transplantation

Undergraduate: West Chester University

Health Services Research Core Programs



To meet our strategic goals, the HSR Center supports several activities to help faculty, trainees, and students in health services research to conduct and disseminate impactful research, prepare the next generation of health services researchers through training and education, and to provide the resources and infrastructure critical to drive HSR. These include but are not limited to research seminars, networking events, mock study sections, and training opportunities to support the next generation of health services researchers.

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH DAY

The Health Services Research Center, in collaboration with the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance, hosts an annual Health Services Research Day as an interprofessional symposium and networking opportunity where researchers learn about ongoing quality, effectiveness, and value-based research activities. In 2021, the virtual symposium included 161 attendees across the CTSA and additional health system partners, and featured Keynote Speaker Michael Chernow Ph.D., Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard University on “The Role of Payment Reform in Supporting a High Quality/ Fiscally Sustainable Health Care System



HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH SEMINARS

The HSR Center hosts monthly health services research seminars, hosting both internal and external researchers. The seminars are opportunities for faculty, trainees and staff to learn about new and emerging topics in the field and offer a valuable forum for introducing potential collaborators or expanding professional networks throughout the Emory community.



TRAINEE RESEARCH IN PROGRESS MEETINGS

Trainee Research in Progress (TRiP) meetings offer an environment for students or faculty to present research in progress to obtain feedback from the HSR Center team and faculty advisors. This enhances the robustness of the research and ensures trainees are prepared for the peer review process, oral presentation, grant applications, or thesis defenses.



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HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bill Bornstein, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology
Chief Medical Officer and Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer, Emory Healthcare

Jada Bussey-Jones, MD

Professor, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics
Chief of General Medicine and Geriatrics, Grady Memorial Hospital
Director of Education, Emory's Urban Health Initiative

Neal Dickert, Jr., MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology
Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology
Director, Recruitment Innovation Center, GA CTSA

Felix G. Fernandez, MD

Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Chief, Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Atlanta VA Medical Center
Quality Officer, General Thoracic Surgery, Emory Healthcare'

Lisa Fisher, MHA

Senior Clinical Administrator
Department of Surgery
Emory University School of Medicine

Daniel Hunt, MD, FACP

Professor of Medicine, Division of Hospital Medicine
Division Director, Division of Hospital Medicine

Ted Johnson, MD, MPH

Paul W. Seavey Chair and Division Chief, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics
Professor of Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics
Division Director, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics
Chair, Department of Family and Preventative Medicine
Professor of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health



Edward Lin, DO, MBA

Professor of Surgery, Division of General and GI Surgery
 Chief, Division of General and GI Surgery
 Associate Program Director, Emory Endosurgery Fellowship
 Director, Gastroesophageal Treatment Center and Esophageal Physiology Lab, The Emory Clinic
 Surgical Director, Emory Bariatric Center

Raymond J. Lynch, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Transplantation
 Director of Public Policy and Community Relations, Emory Transplant Center

Shishir K. Maithel, MD

Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology
 Scientific Director, Emory Liver and Pancreas Center
 Director, Katz Foundation Research Program in Surgical Oncology

Sean Moore

Communications Manager
 Department of Surgery

David Murphy, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine
 Patient Safety Officer, Emory Healthcare

Sharon Muret-Wagstaff, PhD, MPA

Professor of Surgery, Thalia and Michael Carlos and Alfred A. Davis Center for Surgical Anatomy and Technique (CSAT)
 Director, High Fidelity Simulation, CSAT
 Founding Director, Co-Management of Operating Room Emergencies Simulation Program (CORE)
 Director, Emory School of Medicine's Center for Experiential Learning (ExCEL)

Ruth Parker, MD, MACP

Professor of Medicine, General Medicine and Geriatrics
 Professor of Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics
 Professor of Public Health, Rollins School of Public Health

Rachel Patzer, PhD, MPH

Professor of Surgery, Division of Transplantation
 Director, Medicine/Surgery Center for Health Services Research
 Director of Health Services Research, Emory Transplant Center
 Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Epidemiology



Laura Plantinga, PhD, ScM

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Renal Medicine
 Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics
 Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery
 Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health

Lauren Powers

Senior Marketing Manager
 Department of Medicine

John Sauer

Executive Administrator for Academic Affairs & Administration
 Department of Medicine
 Emory University School of Medicine

Virginia Shaffer, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of General and GI Surgery and Division of Colorectal Surgery
 Co-Director, Surgical Grand Rounds
 Scientific Director, Emory Crohn's and Colitis Center
 National Surgical Quality Improvement Project (NSQIP) Champion, Emory University Hospital

Joe Sharma, MD

Professor and William C. McGarity Chair of Surgery, Division of General and GI Surgery
 Vice Chair, Quality, Patient Safety and Care Innovation, Department of Surgery
 Director, Thyroid and Endocrine Surgery, Emory University Hospital
 Co-Lead and Surgeon Consultant, Clinical Support Team, American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Project

Randi Smith, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care, Grady Memorial Hospital

Larissa Teunis, MPA

Director of Projects
 Department of Surgery

Anne Tomolo, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics
 Section Chief and Associate Division Director, VA Quality and Primary Care

E. Camille Vaughan, MD, MS

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics
 Section Chief, Section of Geriatrics and Gerontology



HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTER CO-CHAIRS



John F. Sweeney, MD, FACS

Joseph Brown Whitehead Professor and Chair
Department of Surgery, Emory University School of
Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief, Emory Healthcare



David S. Stephens, MD

Vice President for Research
Woodruff Health Sciences Center Chair
Department of Medicine





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