

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CENTER

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Onkar V. Khullar

Assistant Professor
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at
Emory University School of Medicine

Dr. Khullar is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery of the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine. He is a board-certified thoracic surgeon who specializes in thoracic oncology and minimally invasive thoracic surgery. Dr. Khullar is a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program at Winship Cancer Institute, the Thoracic Surgery Residents Association, the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. Additionally, he is the Co-Chair of the Thoracic Surgery Subcommittee and a surgical chair for several national clinical trials.

His clinical specialties include video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery, robotic thoracic surgery, and lung and esophageal cancer treatment. His clinical and research interests include thoracic quality and outcome improvements, minimally invasive treatment of thoracic malignancies, socioeconomic inequalities in thoracic oncology, and patient-reported outcomes. Dr. Khullar has also published his work in some of the most prominent journals in the field of cardiothoracic surgery. Additionally, Dr. Khullar is also a mentor in the HSR Center Intern program. Currently, he is working on a research project with Aubri Perez (MPH in Epidemiology Candidate 2021, Rollins School of Public Health) focused on the implementation of routine patient-reported outcomes (PRO) assessment in an academic-based thoracic surgery practice and examining how these measures change over time in various patient sub-populations.

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TUNE IN FOR...

7th Annual Health Services Research Day

Virtual symposium and networking opportunity for researchers across Georgia to learn about ongoing quality, effectiveness, and value-based research activities.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Chernew
Wed | 05/05/2021 | 8 AM - 1 PM EST

Registration is required. Register [here](#).

Agenda Information can be found [here](#).



Dr. Chernew is the Leonard D. Schaeffer Professor of Health Care Policy and the Director of the Healthcare Markets and Regulation Lab in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. His research centers on examining several areas related to improving the health care system including studies of novel benefit designs, Medicare Advantage, alternative payment models, low-value care, and the causes and consequences of rising health care spending.

Virtual Special Interest Groups Networking (Telemedicine, Health Economics and Implementation Science):

12:20 PM - 1 PM EST

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TUNE IN FOR...

Emory University Department of Medicine Health Equity Day

Sponsored by RYSE and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council

This half-day conference aims to raise awareness and encourage action around the systemic health disparities that exist across racial, ethnic, cultural, and social groups, while also recognizing interventions and research across the department centered on health equity and historically underrepresented groups in medicine. The event will bring together stakeholders from all divisions and ranks, providing a platform to share compelling new findings, facilitate scientific exchange, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lisa Cooper
Tues | 05/11/2021 | 9 AM - 2 PM EST

Registration is required by May 7th. Register [here](#).

Agenda Information can be found [here](#).



Dr. Cooper is a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is also the Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity. She was one of the first scientists to document disparities in the quality of relationships between physicians and patients from socially at-risk groups and has designed innovative interventions targeting physicians' communication skills, patients' self-management skills, and healthcare organizations' ability to address the needs of populations experiencing health disparities

For questions, please contact John-Otis Blanding, Program Coordinator for Diversity Initiatives and Human Resources at jobland@emory.edu.

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TUNE IN FOR...

Surgical Education Webinar

Surgical Outcomes Club

Limited work has been performed to evaluate the effects of education policy reform using traditional health services research methodologies. The panelists are leading the way in utilizing observational, qualitative, and implementation science methods to evaluate and inform education practices and policy. Join to learn how they are leveraging the health services research toolbox to further inform best practices in surgical education. The webinar is open to all members and non-members of the Surgical Outcomes Club.

Tues |05/18/2021| 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM EST

Keynote Speakers:



Dr. Karl Bilimoria



Dr. Caprice Greenberg



Dr. Brian George



Dr. Rachel Kelz

More information and free registration [here](#). **Registration is required and limited due to limited capacity.**

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TUNE IN FOR...

CHIBE/LDI Health Policy Work-in-Progress Research Seminar Series

Virtual Conversation presented by Penn LDI & the Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics. The panelist for the seminar is Michael Lawrence Barnett, MD who is an Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. He is a health services researcher and primary care physician whose research centers around understanding and addressing the inefficient delivery of health care in the U.S.

Thurs |05/13/2021| 12:00 PM ET



In this talk, Dr. Barnett will examine whether there is evidence that physicians are vulnerable to partisanship in prescribing decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information and registration information can be found [here](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

Virtual conference of health services researchers, policy analysts, clinicians, and community members using evidence and data to transform health and health care. Attendees will have the opportunity to build connections, recognition, reflection, learning, and professional networking opportunities.

06/14/2021 - 06/17/2021

More information can be found [here](#).

Racial Justice in National Drug Policy

Virtual Conversation presented by Penn LDI & Bold Solutions. Panelists include Michael Botticelli, MEd, Kassandra Frederique, MSW, and Helena Hansen, MD, PhD, moderated by Eugenia C. South, MD, MSHP.

Fri |06/04/2021| 12:00 PM ET

The panelists will discuss the structural racism in seemingly color-blind national policies, and how to address the opioid epidemic in more just, compassionate ways.

More information and registration information can be found [here](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Public Health Conversations: Coming Back Better: Building Healthy, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities post-COVID-19

Presented by BU School of Public Health and Initiative on Cities

By 2050, 66 percent of the world's population is expected to live in cities. This panel will explore how cities can be structured to support health and what we have learned about the future of urban living from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thurs |07/01/2021| 4:30 - 6:00 PM ET

More information and free registration [here](#).

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WEBINARS

Emory School of Medicine Grand Rounds

School of Medicine Grand Rounds occur every Tuesday from 12PM - 1PM.

Subscribe to the Grand Round mailing list here:

<https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/education/cme-grand-rounds.html>

Archived sessions can be viewed [here](#).

Featured DOM Grand Rounds:

4/6/21: ["How AI Can Promote Accuracy and Empathy in Medicine"](#)

Speaker:

Eric Topol, MD

EVP and Professor, Molecular Medicine, Scripps Research

Founder and Director, Scripps Research Translational Institute

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WEBINARS

Department of Surgery Grand Rounds

Surgical Grand Rounds occur every Thursday from 7AM - 8AM.

To be added to the email list for the monthly grand rounds schedules, contact Sean Moore, Communications Manager for the Department of Surgery, at srmoore@emory.edu.

Surgical Grand Rounds can be viewed remotely at:

- Grady Memorial Hospital, Sherman Conference Room, 3rd floor, Glenn Building
- Emory Johns Creek Hospital, Administrative Conference Room
- Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital, Education Center, Classroom 4
- Emory University Hospital Midtown, Davis Fischer Building, Classroom 3

Information on upcoming Surgical Grand Rounds can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Surgical Grand Rounds:

PTSD and Acute Stress Disorder in Trauma Patients

Presented by Christine A. Castater, MD

Thurs |05/06/2021

20th Annual Gerald Zwiren Lectureship in Pediatric Surgery: Liver Tumors in Children

Presented by Rebecka L. Meyers, MD

Thurs |05/13/2021

Joseph B. Whitehead Lectureship: Assessment and Repair of Warm Ischemic Injury in Lung Donor Allografts

Presented by Bryan A. Whitson, MD, PhD

Thurs |05/20/2021

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Systems for Action: Systems and Services Research to Build a Culture of Health

Achieving racial equity and health equity in American communities requires effective solutions to the "wrong-pocket problem": we invest in systems that are designed to improve social and economic conditions—such as housing, transportation, education, income, and employment assistance; child and family supports; and legal and criminal justice services—but the financial benefits of these often flow elsewhere, in reduced costs for medical care from diseases and injuries prevented. This creates imbalances in power, information, and financial resources that exist across medical, social, and public health systems—a fundamental problem that confronts many attempts at meaningful cross-sector collaboration. Such solutions must allow collaborating organizations to equitably share in the costs and the benefits of multisector collaborative initiatives, and to share in the power and influence that govern these initiatives. This call for proposals (CFP) will provide funding for new research to rigorously test and evaluate innovative solutions to the wrong-pocket problem that persists across health and social service systems.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations or nonfunctionally integrated Type III supporting organizations.
- Applicant organizations must be based in the United States or its territories.

Full proposals are due by 3 p.m. (ET) on June 9th, 2021 to the [online application](#).

For more information, please email systemsforaction@ucdenver.edu.

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GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Engagement Award Special Cycle: Building Capacity for PCOR/CER for Topics Related to COVID-19

These awards are for research support projects. This program does not fund research studies. This special funding opportunity will support projects that enable organizations and communities to build their capacity and skills to participate across all phases of the PCOR/CER process on topics that address health outcomes related to COVID-19. Projects will also provide an understanding of the impact of stakeholder engagement strategies within different settings and stakeholder groups focused on this special area of interest.

This is an opportunity to explore and address the urgent and unique needs to build capacity for stakeholder engagement in PCOR/CER specifically related to:

- Long-term effects of post-acute COVID-19
- The impact of COVID-19 on disproportionately affected populations
- The impact on social isolation and loneliness (mental health and well-being)
- Engaging, educating, and promoting informed decision-making around COVID-19 vaccines.

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) plans to award up to \$25 million in the fiscal year 2021 as part of the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards. These awards are for research support projects. Research studies will not be supported by these awards. Projects up to 18 months in duration and up to \$200,000 in total costs will be considered. The length of the project period and the budget amount must be justified by the level of activity that will occur during the project and all projects must be at least 12 months in duration.

Applicants are due to the online application by 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2021.

For questions about the grant, please contact PCORI at ea@pcori.org or (202) 370-9312.

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GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity (U01 Clinical Trial Allowed)

The Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity initiative is soliciting applications to support collaborative investigative teams or individual scientists who propose unusually innovative research projects, which, if successful, would have a major impact in developing, implementing, or disseminating innovative and effective interventions to prevent, reduce, or eliminate health disparities and advance health equity. No preliminary data are required. Projects must clearly demonstrate, based on the strength of the logic, a compelling potential to produce a major impact in addressing health disparities and inequities.

Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. Awards are multi-year funded with the first two years of funds disbursed in the first year of the award (FY 2021). Funds for years 3 -5 of the award will be disbursed on an annual basis.

Applications are due on May 28, 2021 by 5:00 PM local time of the applicant organization.

For additional information, visit the application [website](#). For questions about the grant, please email CFHealthDisparities@nih.gov.

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GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

HSR Center Pilot Grant - Department of Surgery

The HSR Center pilot grant is expected to assist early-stage investigators in gathering preliminary data to support applications for larger external funding and be more competitively scored. The pilot grant is anticipated to assist the department in growing its sponsored research portfolio. Established investigators could equally benefit if they desire to branch out into new areas or a related field but lack preliminary data. Proposals should be related to health services research would ideally involve multiple disciplines (e.g., clinical expert + methodologist) examining innovative solutions for issues such as healthcare quality, costs, equity/access to care, or dissemination research in surgical patients.

Pilot grant funding/seed funding for the Department of Surgery health services research-related projects for a one-year period, with potential for competitive renewal for a second year. Funding will not exceed \$25,000 per year in direct costs only. Only one grant will be awarded in this cycle.

Eligibility:

- Faculty of all levels are encouraged to apply but must have a faculty appointment in the Department of Surgery to be eligible
- Salary for faculty or clinical staff would not be an eligible expense for this RFA
- Principal investigators must have a faculty appointment in the Department of Surgery

Applications should be emailed to Larissa Teunis at larissa.j.teunis@emory.edu. Applications are due by July 30, 2021. Funding is anticipated to begin on September 1, 2021.

For additional information on application guidelines and formatting, visit the application [website](#).

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GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Understanding and Addressing the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination on Minority Health and Health Disparities

This initiative will support observational or intervention research to understand and address the impact of SRD on minority health and health disparities. Projects must address SRD in one or more NIH-designated populations with health disparities in the US and should address documented disparities in health outcomes. It is also expected that projects will collect data on SRD beyond individual self-reported perceptions and experiences to include data at organizational, community, or societal levels. Projects are expected to involve collaborations with relevant organizations or groups of stakeholders. Each of the participating institutes has its own specific criteria and focus.

Letters of Intent are due by 5:00 pm on July 20th, 2021. Applications are due by 5:00 pm on August 24th, 2021. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

For more information on the program and how to apply, please visit the [application website](#).

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In need of part-time student assistance for a health services research project?

The Center for Health Services Research in the Department of Surgery plans to hire and support up to two Rollins Earn and Learn (REAL) Master's in Public Health (MPH) students from the Rollins School of Public Health starting in September 2021 and continuing through late April of 2022. The intention for this program is to grow longer-term collaborations between methodologists in RSPH and clinicians in the Department of Surgery. All surgery faculty are eligible to apply for assistance.

The REAL program is an internship program supported in part by RSPH that allows MPH students to obtain applied public health experiences in real-world settings. First or second-year students in epidemiology, health policy & management, biostatistics, global health, and/or behavioral sciences & health education will apply for the positions, and the students will have the opportunity to work directly with the surgery department faculty on a research project. Students are eligible to work up to 20 hours per week. Faculty are expected to provide mentorship and oversight of the research project and the student, and meet with students on a regular basis (e.g., weekly). The REAL student will also have access to a biostatistician and epidemiologist in the HSR Center and will be invited to participate in monthly HSR Center lunch and learn activities.

If interested in mentoring a REAL student this Fall, please send an email to lteunis@emory.edu by Friday, July 15, 2021, with the following information:

- Title of the research project
- Name & title of mentor/faculty lead, and other co-investigators involved in the project
- Brief description of the research project, proposed methods, justification for how this work will lead to future funding (e.g. pilot data collection or analysis for a grant submission), timeline, and expected role of the student
- Estimated number of hours/week needed for the project

Please note that we would like to hire a student *specifically* for your project to ensure there is an overlap of interests and create a mutually beneficial relationship. This will result in a lengthier timeline than normal so expect to be notified by early August of your status in this program.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Grant Wise Consults

The new Georgia CTSA Grant Wise service offers the opportunity for one to receive one-on-one feedback and support with grant writing from experienced senior faculty. This resource is available to faculty of institutions within the Georgia CTSA (Emory University, Georgia Tech, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the University of Georgia). All grant types are welcome to submit a request for guidance.

Receive support with:

- Developing a timeline
- Reviewing Specific Aims
- Writing/editing the text
- Responding to reviewers

Requests can be submitted to the [online form](#).

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RESEARCH RESOURCES

Coronavirus Checker

C19 Checker website: <https://c19check.com/start>

Data collection is ongoing and includes users' symptoms, risk factors for COVID-19, and country/zip code. In addition, longitudinal data has also been collected on a cohort of users. To request to use the data, please email Griselda McCorquodale at gmccorq@emory.edu with a brief sentence about intended usage. In response, we will grant access and send out the data usage agreement form.

Access to the COVID-19 Data Analytics Platform

Researchers studying COVID-19 can now access an innovative new analytics platform that contains clinical data from the electronic health records of people who were tested for coronavirus or who have had related symptoms. As part of NCATS National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Data Enclave, the data within this source will help scientists study COVID 19 and answer clinically important questions about COVID-19 that they could not have answered previously, including potential risk factors, protective factors, and long-term health consequences.

More information and how to submit access requests can be found here:
<https://ncats.nih.gov/news/releases/2020/access-to-N3C-COVID-19-data-analytics-platform-now-open>

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WHAT ARE WE READING?



[Adjusting Quality Measures For Social Risk Factors Can Promote Equity In Health Care](#)

[Should social risks factor into health care quality measures?](#)



[Disentangling Health Care Disparities is Complex, but Using Implementation Frameworks Can Help](#)



[A Closer Look at Health Inequities Among Pregnant People With Unstable Housing](#)

[Association Between Donor-Recipient Biological Relationship and Allograft Outcomes After Living Donor Kidney Transplant](#)



[What can COVID-19 teach us about patient satisfaction in the emergency department? A mixed-methods approach](#)

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SELECT RECENT PUBLICATIONS

From Emory Health Services Research Center

1. Epps F, Wiley Z, Teunis LJ, Johnson TM 2nd, Patzer RE, Ofotokun I, Franks N. A Framework for Mobilizing Health Care to Respond to the Community Within the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Prev Chronic Dis.* 2021 Apr 1;18:E30. doi: 10.5888/pcd18.200572. PMID: 33793392; PMCID: PMC8021142.
2. Wiley Z, Ross-Driscoll K, Wang Z, Smothers L, Mehta AK, Patzer RE. Racial and Ethnic Differences and Clinical Outcomes of COVID-19 Patients Presenting to the Emergency Department. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2021 Apr 2:ciab290. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciab290. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33822023.
3. Hernandez-Romieu AC, Leung S, Mbanya A, et al. Health Care Utilization and Clinical Characteristics of Nonhospitalized Adults in an Integrated Health Care System 28–180 Days After COVID-19 Diagnosis — Georgia, May 2020–March 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2021;70:644-650. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7017e3external icon>
4. Crown A, Berry C, Khabele D, Fayanju OM, Cobb A, Backhus L, Smith RN, Sweeting R, Hasson RM, Johnson-Mann C, Oseni T, Newman EA, Turner P, Karpeh M, Pugh C, Jordan AH, Henry-Tillman R, Joseph KA. The Role of Race and Gender in the Career Experiences of Black/African American Academic Surgeons: A Survey of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons and a Call to Action. *Ann Surg.* 2021 May 1;273(5):827-831. doi: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000004502. PMID: 32941287.
5. Adler JT, Tsai TC, Jin G, Cron DC, Ross-Driscoll KH, Malek SK, Tullius SG, Weissman JS. Association of balanced abdominal organ transplant center volumes with patient outcomes. *Clin Transplant.* 2021 Apr;35(4):e14217. doi: 10.1111/ctr.14217. Epub 2021 Feb 2. PMID: 33405324.
6. Patzer RE, Kaji AH, Fong Y. TRIPOD Reporting Guidelines for Diagnostic and Prognostic Studies. *JAMA Surg.* 2021 Apr 7. doi: 10.1001/jamasurg.2021.0537. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33825807.

National Health Services Research

1. McGuier EA, Rothenberger SD, Friedman A, Kolko DJ. An equivalence analysis of provider education in youth mental health care. *Health Serv Res.* 2021 Apr 12. doi: 10.1111/1475-6773.13659. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33844276.