



## ABOUT OUR CENTER

*The Vanderbilt Center for Effective Health Communication (CEHC) focuses on health communication in research, education, and the community to promote greater health knowledge, more informed patient behaviors, and improved quality of care.*

Health Communication includes:

- health literacy
- risk communication
- medical decision making
- patient-centered communication
- addressing cultural and language barriers

Co-directed by **Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, SFHM**, and **Kerri Cavanaugh, MD, MHS**, the CEHC is made up of other nationally recognized multidisciplinary faculty members and staff. The CEHC provides administrative support, research support, and pilot funding.

### EFFECTIVE HEALTH COMMUNICATION (EHC) CORE CONSULTING SERVICES

The EHC Core is directed by **Shelagh Mulvaney, PhD**, with associate director **Kerri Cavanaugh, MD, MHS**.

The Core provides consultation on multiple aspects of research related to health literacy, numeracy, cross-cultural communication, and mobile device or Internet-based communication. Consultations can be arranged at any stage in the research process. Consulting services can be requested using the **VICTR voucher program** or **research/center funding**.

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## COLLABORATORS

- Departments: Medicine, Surgery, Urology, Pediatrics, Biomedical Informatics
- Center for Biomedical Ethics
- Institute for Global Health
- School of Nursing
- Community Health Needs Assessment
- Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC)

## EHC CORE PROJECT SUMMARY

Since 2014, the EHC Core has consulted on a variety of internal, external, and community-based projects. Examples include:

### ResearchMatch

- Created a glossary of commonly used research terms to improve understanding for patients who want to sign up for research studies

### All of Us (Precision Medicine Initiative)

- Improved readability and understandability of public-facing materials and informed consent documents
- Assisted with the development of the survey to be completed by all participants

### Sickle Cell Disease Guidelines

- Converted clinical sickle cell disease guidelines into clearly articulated, patient-facing text and actionable items

### EdLogics (external project)

- Improved the readability of client-facing health materials
- Goal was to improve user knowledge and understanding of complex health topics

	Number of Projects	Hours Billed	Amount Billed
<b>2016</b>	10	195	\$10,737
<b>2017</b> (through June)	7	82.5	\$5,091
<b>Total</b>	17	277.5	\$15,828

### Did you know?

The EHC Core also provides a variety of effective health communication trainings, including **one-on-one counseling, workshops, and community-based seminars.**

Do you have informed consent documents or other materials that need improvement?

**THE EHC CORE CAN HELP!**

### Example of EHC Core changes made to an informed consent document:

	Before	After	Difference
<b>Grade Level</b>	9.9	6.5	-3.4
<b>Word Count</b>	2,866	1,739	-1,127

Are you interested in health communication, health literacy, risk communication, shared decision-making, or a related field? **Join our team!**

Contact the Center and tell us about your interests: [cehc@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:cehc@vanderbilt.edu)

## HEALTH COMMUNICATION RESEARCH GRANTS

*The CEHC Health Communication Research Grant Program is designed to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of research projects or training activities that involve health communication.*

These pilot grants also develop health communication research collaborations at VUMC that will ultimately benefit patient care and outcomes. Research grants support discrete research projects, and are not intended to supplement already funded research projects unless it is to add a new element related to health communication.

- The first round of grants supported **3 research projects at up to \$5,000 each** over 6 months, ending July 2017. Topics included:
  - Evaluating a patient and family engagement consultation service in the pediatric hospital setting
  - Using graphic novels to teach patients about cardiac medications
  - Studying communication preferences of children and parents during end of life care
- The second round of grant funding will support **up to 2 research projects at up to \$7,500 each**. The submission deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, and grants will be awarded in October. Projects will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. [Click for grant guidelines.](#)

## CEHC FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



**Ken Wallston, PhD**, recently transitioned to becoming an emeritus professor of nursing after over 40 years on faculty at Vanderbilt. Ken Wallston is one of the founders of the field of health psychology, and he has many interests in the interdisciplinary arena of behavioral medicine, including: adaptation to chronic illness; perceptions of control related to health behavior and health status; effects of psychological interventions on mental and physical health; health literacy and numeracy; health communication; and health promotion. Professor Wallston will continue collaborating with the CEHC during his retirement.

## CONTACT US

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