

Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research



Highlights 2017- 2019

Institute for Medicine and Public Health

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

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From the Director



Russell Rothman, MD, MPP

The Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research, a critical component of the Vanderbilt Institute for Medicine and Public Health, brings together over 160 scientists and other professionals from across the Vanderbilt community to conduct research and discover, implement, and disseminate workable solutions for modern-day problems in health care delivery, healthcare quality, and patient centered outcomes. Faculty affiliated with the Center represent diverse disciplines including clinical medicine, nursing, public health, social sciences, management sciences, and the humanities. Key research foci of the Center include: clinical quality and implementation research; pragmatic clinical trials, clinical epidemiology, outcomes and real-world evidence research, health promotion and disease management, behavioral health, comparative effectiveness research, population health, community health and health policy. The goal of the Center is to find interdisciplinary solutions to improve health care outcomes for patients, families and the community. We strive to perform research and advance knowledge to create health care systems which satisfy the six criteria for patient care as originally established by the Institute of Medicine. This includes care that is safe, timely, effective, patient-centered, efficient, and equitable.

Given the current complexities of the health care system, and rapid transformation of the system to create value based-health care, the role of the Center will remain essential for the promotion of translational and health services research in the years ahead. We seek to be an integral part of a learning health system that identifies key evidence gaps and research priorities, conducts meaningful research, and implements and disseminates these results to continuously improve the system and the community.

Over the past year, we have expanded our research in population health, implementation sciences, “big data”, optimal use of health information technologies, pragmatic clinical trials, addressing social determinants of health, and other key areas to provide important evidence to support health care transformation and improve health care quality. We have expanded our relationships with Vanderbilt and the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network to greatly expand our capacity to do research that is integrated with the health system to create a learning health system that can rapidly implement and evaluate new approaches to improve health care. We have also expanded our relationships with other organizations across the country and the world, in order to expand research and improve care nationally and internationally.

During the past year we have continued to recruit, and support faculty and trainees interested in health services and related research. We have also expanded our training programs to support new trainees and faculty in the field. We continue to provide grant management support, administrative support, services from our research support cores, biostatistical support, and educational activities to provide a rich support environment for our community. We remain dedicated to advancing research and health care delivery that improves the quality and equity of care for all.

Russell Rothman, MD, MPP

Professor, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, & Health Policy
Vice President for Population Health Research
Chief, Internal Medicine & Pediatrics Section
Director, Center for Health Services Research



Our mission is to improve the quality and equity of healthcare delivery for all people through translational research, and training initiatives. We do this by bridging the gap between evidence and real-world practice.

AT A GLANCE

CHSR SUPPORT FY2018

>160 AFFILIATED FACULTY



ANNUAL FUNDING

\$50 MILLION



SPACE 40k SQUARE FEET

MORE THAN 40K SQUARE FEET OF SPACE



PUBLICATIONS >400

FACULTY PUBLISHED IN OVER 400 PUBLICATIONS ANNUALLY



83 IN TOP HIGH IMPACT JOURNALS

About the Center

The Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research was formally created in 2000. Dr. Russell Rothman is the current Director. The Center currently engages over 160 faculty, who participate in approximately \$50 million in annual awarded funding. The Center has an overall program emphasis on improving healthcare outcomes. Faculty represent diverse disciplines including clinical medicine, nursing, public health, social sciences, management sciences, and the humanities. Key research foci of the Center include: clinical epidemiology and outcomes research; clinical improvement, quality, and implementation research; health economics and decision science; health prevention, promotion and disease management; behavioral health and health communication; pragmatic research and comparative effectiveness research; community health, and health policy. The Center can provide core services related to implementation sciences and quality improvement, database management and evaluation, qualitative research, human factors, and health communication. The Center also helps to support numerous training programs for fellows and junior faculty.

Comprising over 40,000 square feet of space at the Nashville VA Medical Center, and 2525 West End, the Center provides the ideal environment within which research can flourish. The Center houses a portion of the HSR faculty and their affiliated research staff. Large conference rooms hold research seminars, journal clubs, and work-in-progress meetings. Smaller conference rooms are designed for small group research meetings. Break rooms provide an opportunity for investigators to gather over lunch and discuss their work. All offices are connected to the central information center providing quick access to the Internet, library resources, and electronic mail system. The Center also provides administrative support, grant management support, IT support, biostatistical support, and other services.

Services

The Center for Health Services Research offers a broad array of services to its affiliated faculty including:

Administrative

- Space
- Grants Management
- Web Conferencing (GoToMeeting)
- Outreach and Advocacy
- Pilot Funding Resources
- Vouchers for Core Services

Core Services

- Priority Access to Services
- Qualitative Research
- Database Management
- Human Factors Research
- Implementation Science Core
- Effective Health Communication

Education and Seminars

- Works in Progress
- Biostatistics Clinic
- CCQIR Scholarly Series
- Biostatistics Consultation

CHSR CORES SUPPORT FY2018

Hours Billed

Amount Billed

Database Analysis Core

Offers educational, computational, and data acquisition support for analyses of publicly available biomedical and public health datasets. Provides consulting services regarding the design, conduct & analysis of studies using these datasets, facilitating the development of hypotheses & guidance for policy choices.

869

\$82,087

Human Factors and Systems Safety Core

Provides training and assistance in observing and analyzing human factors involved in both individual clinical tasks and complex health systems in order to improve patient safety and provider and system efficiency in health care delivery.

169

\$12,600

Qualitative Research Core

Offers consultative services, equipment, and facilitation to support investigators planning to conduct qualitative studies, with a focus on use of structured and semi-structured interviews, web-based collection of qualitative data, direct observation of behavior, and focus groups.

17,091

\$129,000

Effective Health Communication Core

Offers consultation regarding the development of consent and data collection processes and the preparation of outreach, educational, and dissemination materials that are sensitive to patient literacy/numeracy, cultural, and other psychosocial factors. The Core can also provide training in effective health communication skills.

133

\$10,140

Implementation Science Core

Provides consultation and research support services for the implementation and evaluation of initiatives to improve the quality, safety, value, and delivery of health care. Services include consultation on the use of implementation science frameworks, study design (including hybrid designs, quasi-experimental and pragmatic clinical trials), selection of process and outcome measures, and program evaluation.

61

\$4,387

Supported Centers

CENTER FOR

Asthma Research

Tina Hartert, MD, MPH

CENTER FOR

Child Health Policy

Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS

CENTER FOR

Clinical Quality and Implementation Research

Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, SFHM

CENTER FOR

Effective Health Communication

Kerri Cavanaugh, MD, MHS
Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, SFHM

CENTER FOR

Emergency Care Research

Alan Storrow, MD
Sean Collins, MD, MSc

CENTER FOR

Improving the Public's Health Using Informatics

Michael Matheny, MD, MS, MPH
Melissa McPheeters, PhD, MPH

CENTER FOR

Musculoskeletal Research

Kristin Archer, PhD, DPT

CENTER FOR

Research and Innovation in System Safety

Matthew Weinger, MD

CENTER FOR

Research on Men's Health

Derek Griffith, PhD

CENTER FOR

Surgical Quality and Outcomes Research

David Penson, MD, MPH

CENTER FOR

Quality Aging

Sandra Simmons, PhD

Critical Illness Dysfunction, and Survivorship (CIBS) Center

Wes Ely, MD, MPH

CENTER FOR

Health Behavior and Health Education

Tom Elasy, MD, MPH

VA Health Services Research Center

Harvey Murff, MD, MPH

Vanderbilt Center for Tobacco, Addiction and Lifestyle (ViTAL)

Hilary Tindle, MD, MPH

Women's Health Research at Vanderbilt

Digna Velez Edwards, PhD

Program in Rural Health Equity Research

Velma McBride Murry, PhD

New Research Centers



The Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research is excited to announce the launch of the **Center for Emergency Care Research and Innovation (CERI)** directed by Sean Collins, MD, MSc, professor and executive vice chair of Emergency Medicine and director of the Clinical Trials Center in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The Center for Emergency Care Research and Innovation (CERI) will develop a multifaceted and cross-specialty cohort of mid-career and senior researchers to be leaders in emergency care research and conduct well designed and methodologically sound studies positively impacting patient care. These investigators will also facilitate the development of junior faculty and mentees into independent investigators.

CERI will grow by both expanding the Division of Research in the Department of Emergency Medicine and incorporating investigators from other Divisions and Departments who participate in emergency care research. CERI aims to do this by two mechanisms:

- 1) Supporting and developing current faculty who are promising junior, mid-career and senior researchers
- 2) Recruitment of junior, mid-career and senior researchers who add to CERI's vision by providing a unique methodology or program of research

CERI will also facilitate cross-specialty collaboration at VUMC by offering funding for 1-2 pilot studies each year.



New Research Centers



Vanderbilt University Medical Center, through the Institute for Medicine and Public Health (IMPH), Center for Health Services Research (CHSR) and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, has established a multidisciplinary **Center for Musculoskeletal Research** to encourage collaborative research aimed at improving patient outcomes and preventing disability after muscle and skeletal injuries and surgery. Directed by Kristin Archer, PhD, DPT, associate professor and vice chair of Research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, the center focuses on four main research areas – chronic pain, spinal pain, sports medicine and trauma.

Goals of the Center for Musculoskeletal Research include:

- reducing opioid use in the management of chronic pain by providing integrated health services;
- improving outcomes after orthopaedic surgery and musculoskeletal injury with evidence-based management strategies;
- developing and validating measurement tools to assess clinical risk factors and outcomes; and
- establishing infrastructure for clinical registries

The center supports scientific investigation and clinical dissemination of musculoskeletal research through seed grants, travel awards, seminar series, invited speakers, and mentoring opportunities for trainees. Core faculty for the new center span multiple departments in the School of Medicine including Orthopaedic Surgery, Internal Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Psychiatry and Behavioral Services, as well as the School of Nursing.

The **Center for Improving the Public's Health Using Informatics** (CIPHI) focuses on providing a bridge between public health and health care to mutually develop and test critical informatics capacity for improving population health and expanding critically needed capacity in graduate education in public health informatics.

CIPHI works with state and national public health agencies to offer services and expertise in developing key informatics and analytics capacity, develop new research programs and expand research faculty capacity, particularly in the areas of public health reporting and data exchange with health care, integration and use of evolving data systems, real-time predictive analytics, population surveillance and risk-adjustment and medical product surveillance.

The center is being jointly supported by the Department of Biomedical Informatics and the Institute for Medicine and Public Health including the Center for Health Services Research. The Center for Improving the Public's Health Using Informatics is co-directed by **Melissa McPheeters, PhD, MPH** and **Michael Matheny, MD, MS, MPH**.





Stakeholders, Technology, and Research CRN

Our **Stakeholders, Technology, and Clinical Research Network (CRN)**, with data on over 12M patients, includes academic health centers, community hospitals and a range of outpatient practices including primary care, specialty practices and safety net facilities that serve diverse populations. Through this network, we have access to a broad array of clinical data, informatics tools, patients, providers, and systems to address an array of research questions. The objective of our CRN is to robustly support comparative effectiveness studies, pragmatic clinical trials, health system innovation, and the other research needs of our stakeholders and partners. Our network is particularly focused on research to improve health in the southern United States which has the highest rates of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, and other conditions, as well as significant disparities in health status and health care delivery. To learn more about this research, please visit the [STAR CRN website](#).

The STAR CRN Network (formerly known as the Mid-South CDRN) includes:

- **Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC)**
- **Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network (VHAN)**
- **Meharry Medical College (MMC)**
- **Duke University Health System**
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
- **Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center**
- **Health Sciences of South Carolina**
- **Mayo Clinic**

STAR CRN Clinical Reach

Over **12 million patients** across the country.

The STAR Clinical Research Network includes **clinical records** of patients **since 2004** and is updated on a quarterly basis.





Tom Elasy, MD, MPH received a 5-year renewal of the **Center for Diabetes Translation Research (CDTR)**. With this award, Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Meharry Medical College investigators will continue their work in bridging the gap between evidence and real-world practice by building on the success in translational research through the Vanderbilt CDTR. The Center supports pilot and feasibility

grants in the following areas: translational or behavioral science research, basic or clinical research, or diabetes and obesity-related pilot studies.



Nitin Jain, MD, MSPH, associate professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Orthopaedics, was **awarded a \$7.5 million contract** to determine whether surgery vs. non-operative therapy works better for a common age-related injury that costs the health care systems billions of dollars—rotator cuff tears. The randomized clinical trial will involve a dozen sites across the nation and

will enroll 700 patients. Patients who agree to participate will be randomized for either surgery or non-operative therapy.



Sara Van Driest, MD, PhD, assistant professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Vanderbilt, **received a 2017 Clinical Scientist Development Award** from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, which provided \$495,000 in research support over three years. Van Driest is the fourth current physician-scientist at VUMC to receive a Clinical Scientist Development Award from the New

York-based foundation. Her research has focused on the use of large data sources such as electronic health records and DNA sequences to predict and improve children’s response to medication. The project supported by the foundation is entitled “New Approaches to Precision Dosing for Special Populations.”

Research and Discovery

The Center for Health Services Research (CHSR) faculty are leaders in their respective research spaces. From clinical practice to patient experience and healthcare outcomes to health policy, CHSR Scholars lead by performing innovative research that is patient-centered and community-oriented.



Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, SFMP, Principal Investigator and professor of Medicine, and **Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH**, Program Director and associate professor of Medicine and Pediatrics **were awarded a \$3 million grant** to establish a new career development program for scientists in implementation research. The goal is to speed the uptake and translation of scientific discoveries into routine clinical practice. The **Vanderbilt Scholars in T4 Translational Research (V-STTaR) is supported by NHLBI**.



Carolyn Audet, PhD, assistant professor in Health Policy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, was **awarded a five-year, nearly \$3-million grant** by the National Institute of Mental Health aimed to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Mozambique through a unique couples intervention. By encouraging men to play a larger role in the health care provided to their

HIV-infected pregnant wives, they hope the women will be more adherent to anti-retroviral therapy and less likely to pass the AIDS virus to their children before or during birth.



A research team led by **Russell Rothman, MD, MPP**, received **\$7 million research grant** from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to conduct a randomized, multi-center trial comparing clinic and consumer information technology approaches to promote healthy behaviors and prevent early childhood obesity. PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization authorized by Congress in 2010 to fund research that will provide patients, their caregivers and clinicians with the evidence-based information needed to make better-informed health care decisions.

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C. William Wester, MD, MPH, professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt, and **Muktar Aliyu, MD, MPH, DrPH** VIGH associate director for Research, associate professor of Health Policy and Medicine at Vanderbilt and associate professor of Family and Community Medicine at Meharry Medical College, **received a five-year \$3.1 million grant** to support a randomized, controlled trial of 2,200 HIV-infected adults on combination antiretroviral therapy who are genetically susceptible to developing kidney-related complications



Kenneth Gaines, MD, MBA, professor of Clinical Neurology, **received a \$15.7 million funding award** to determine if stroke outcomes can be improved with a redesigned and better-integrated model of care. The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors approved the study that includes a telehealth component at 18 clinical sites across the nation.

Research and Discovery



Deonni Stollendorf, PhD, RN was awarded an individual KO1 career development award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for her project: “Implementing and Sustaining Complex Interdisciplinary Healthcare Interventions: Learning from Medication Reconciliation.” This project focuses on determining how innovations in health care can be sustained to enhance organizational performance related to patient safety and the quality and effectiveness of care.



The multi-disciplinary project team led by **Alan Storrow, MD**, associate professor of Emergency Medicine and James Blumstein, LLB, University Professor of Constitutional Law and Health Law and Policy **received a five-year \$1.7 million research grant** from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) of the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and test “safe-harbor” standards of care based on scientific evidence.



A VUMC HIV research training program **launched with the help of a \$1.6 million grant** from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The specialized research training program called Vanderbilt Scholars in HIV and Heart, Lung, Blood and Sleep Research, or V-SCHoLARs is directed by **Matthew Freiberg, MD, MSc**, and **John Koethe, MD, MSCI**.



Training Programs

Vanderbilt Emergency Medicine Research Training (VEMRT)

Vanderbilt Emergency Medicine Research Training (VEMRT) K12 career development program trains clinician-scientists in emergency care. Led by Alan Storrow, M.D., Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, and Thomas Wang, M.D., Gottlieb C. Friesinger II Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, the program provides opportunity for the scholars to develop expertise in emergency care such as acute cardiopulmonary emergencies, the neurobiology of acute psychiatric illness, and patient-centered emergency care nursing.

VA Quality Scholars (VAQS) Fellowship Program

The mission of the VA Quality Scholars (VAQS) Fellowship Program is to offer scholars opportunities to be leaders who can apply knowledge and methods of health care improvement to the care of veterans; innovate and continually improve health care; teach health professionals about health care improvement, and perform research and develop new knowledge for the ongoing improvement of the quality and value of health care services.

V-STTaR K12 in Implementation Research

This National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) funded research training program is dedicated to developing independent investigators capable of addressing major gaps that exist in the widespread implementation of proven interventions into practice. Faculty scholars will receive up to 3 years of individualized training with 75% protected research time to focus on “real-world” implementation of interventions to improve patient care in heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) disorders.

Vanderbilt Scholars in HIV and Heart, Lung, Blood and Sleep Research, or V-SCHoLARS

The two-year program for instructor/assistant professor-level MD and PhD researchers will focus on heart, lung, blood and sleep (HLBS) disorders in people living with HIV/AIDS. Leading the interdisciplinary program will be HIV and cardiovascular disease epidemiologist Matthew Freiberg, MD, MSc, and infectious diseases specialist John Koethe, MD, MSCI.

Vanderbilt Learning Health System Scholar (LHSS) K12 Program

The goal of this program is to draw together scholars and mentors across disciplines and model team science integral to learning health systems. The LHSS K12 focuses on patient centered outcomes research/pragmatic trials, implementation and dissemination science, health policy and community health, stakeholder engagement and methods advancement.

Vanderbilt Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Career Knowledge, Education and Training (V-POCKET)

V-POCKET focuses on patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and is not limited to a specific disease or type of patient. The research program aims to develop a PCOR-mentored career development program for post-doctoral scientists integrating an individualized mentored research project with experiential or didactic learning and to produce clinically relevant, patient-specific information that can help patients make decisions about treatment options.

Vanderbilt Patient, Practice Outcomes and Research in Effectiveness and Systems Science (PROGRESS) Training Program

The T32 postdoctoral training grant from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will support the Vanderbilt Patient, Practice Outcomes and Research in Effectiveness and Systems Science (PROGRESS) Training Program directors are Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH, associate professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, and Carlos Grijalva, MD, MPH, associate professor of Health Policy. “The PROGRESS Program will enhance our ability to teach and train researchers, enhancing Vanderbilt’s position at the forefront as a Learning Health System,” Dr. Roumie said.

CHSR Educational Activities and Seminars

CHSR Works in Progress (WIP) Meetings

WIP sessions are designed to provide opportunities for fellows and junior faculty to present research in progress and gain valuable feedback on their work. In general, these sessions will be an informal opportunity for folks to get important appraisal and help with their work. We will also use these sessions to provide participants with exposure to other researchers at Vanderbilt and the VA, information about CHSR, quality improvement, and research methodology.

Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research (CCQIR) Scholarly Series

These weekly seminars are hosted by the Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research. CCQIR serves as the nexus for implementation research and education at VUMC, bringing together more than 30 core faculty members from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Management. A robust funding portfolio of approximately \$27 million in annual awarded direct costs, supported by NIH, AHRQ, CMS, PCORI, and CDC, facilitates local, regional, and national efforts to improve health and healthcare delivery.

Biostatistics Consultation

Biostats Consultation provides methodological resource for members of the Center for Health Services Research, including consultation on the study design, data collection, data management, data analysis and presentation of results.

To request a consultation, please contact the CHSR Biostatistics Director, Dr. Robert Greevy. For more info go to [Biostatistics Clinics site](https://www.vumc.org/hsr/biostats-consultation)
<https://www.vumc.org/hsr/biostats-consultation>



MONTHLY Biostatistics Seminars:

Tuesday (4th week)
noon-1:00 p.m.
2525 West End Avenue
12th Floor Grand
Conference Room



WEEKLY CHSR Biostatistics Clinics:

Mondays
noon - 1:00 p.m.
2525 West End Avenue
11th Floor, Room 1105

Impact of Parents' Physical Activity on Preschoolers

"This study highlights how important parents' physical activity is to shaping their young children's physical activity," said principal investigator **Shari Barkin, MD, MSHS**, William K. Warren Foundation professor in Medicine, director of Pediatric Obesity Research, and chief of the Division of General Pediatrics at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Generic Drugs Don't Always Push Prices Down

Stacie Dusetzina, PhD, associate professor of Health Policy is analyzing Gleevec prices after generic competition entered the market. "Most estimates of price reductions due to generic entry assume prices will drop by as much as 80 percent. Obviously, we aren't even close to that mark," Dr. Dusetzina said. She was also quoted in a *Washington Post* piece headlined "Two weeks after Trump unveiled plan to lower drug prices, two cancer drugs got a \$1,000-per-month price hike."

Smoking Study Personalizes Treatment

A simple blood test is allowing Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) researchers to determine which patients should be prescribed varenicline (Chantix) to stop smoking and which patients could do just as well, and avoid side effects, by using a nicotine patch. "You have to treat about five normal metabolizers with varenicline to help one person quit smoking, while, by contrast, you have to treat about 26 normal metabolizers with the nicotine patch in order to help just one quit smoking," said lead author **Quinn Wells, PharmD, MD**, assistant professor of Cardiovascular Medicine.

Team Explores Fungal Infection Quandary in Lung Cancer Screenings

Stephen Deppen, PhD, Clinical Epidemiologist and assistant professor of Thoracic Surgery, **Melinda Aldrich, PhD, MPH**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Thoracic Surgery and their team are exploring challenges distinguishing lung cancer from histoplasmosis, a fungal infection that creates cancer-mimicking lesions in the lungs. The team is looking to form a benign lung nodule consortium with other medical research institutions across the country to validate and extend work into clinical practice.

Sedative-Associated Delirium Increases Risk of Dementia

The culture of the ICU has traditionally been dictated by some de facto norms over the past 20-30 years," said **Wes Ely, MD, MPH**, Grant W. Liddle Professor in the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. "We are correcting that now. Before our research began to change things, we had allowed ourselves to keep a patient deeply sedated, immobilized and without a lot of engagement with their loved ones. What we did was organize a system of care that didn't look at the whole person all too often."

Saliva Test for Obesity Risk

In a first-of-its-kind study, **Shari Barkin, MD, MSHS**, and colleagues collected saliva samples from 92 Hispanic pre-school children. DNA in the samples was tested for methylation, an epigenetic mechanism that regulates expression of genes, including those affecting accumulation of adipocytes (fat cells) and other obesity risk factors.

Diabetes Drug Treats RSV Infection

A drug used to treat diabetes may point to new therapies for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) bronchiolitis -inflammation and obstruction of the lungs' small airways was reported in *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. A multi-disciplinary team of Vanderbilt investigators led by **Kevin Niswender, MD, PhD**, **R. Stokes Peebles, MD**, **Tina Hartert, MD, MPH**, **Lisa Bastarache, MS**, and **Melissa Bloodworth, PhD**, has demonstrated that liraglutide reduces the inflammatory response to RSV infection in a mouse model of the disease.

Health Care Costs Could Be Shrunk By Curbing Hospital Consolidation/Out-Of-Network Fees, Senate Told

Melinda Buntin, PhD, Mike Curb Professor of Health Policy and Chair, Department of Health Policy, was quoted in a *Forbes* piece about the role of hospital consolidation and out-of-network fees on health care costs.

Initiative for Young Adults with Autism Adds Distance Learning

The leaders of a new Vanderbilt initiative for young adults with autism are looking to expand its reach through distance learning. The initiative led by **Beth Malow, MD, MS**, Burry Professor of Cognitive Childhood Development, professor of Neurology and Pediatrics and Vanderbilt Kennedy Center investigator and her collaborators aims to improve the lives of young adults with autism spectrum disorders who often end up socially isolated once they leave high school.

Vanderbilt Researchers Find Tennessee Hospitals May Send Opioid-Dependent Babies Home Too Quickly

“As we’re increasingly focusing on efficiency and making sure that we’re doing the best care, I think that we have to keep in mind that our outcomes don’t just need to be on the length of stay in the hospital,” **Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS**, assistant professor of Pediatrics said in his report to WPLN Nashville Public Radio on how to treat opioid addiction in infants.

Long-term unemployment linked to increase in babies born with drug withdrawal

The results of the study published in Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), examine the association between long-term economic conditions, health care provider shortage areas and the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome, which can occur when babies are chronically exposed to opioids before birth. “As Congress considers legislation, particularly those related to building infrastructure in rural communities, it should consider that these investments may also benefit the health of communities,” lead author **Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS**, assistant professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy at VUMC said.

Low-health literacy associated with early death for cardiovascular patients

Health literacy is the ability to access and use reliable health information to make decisions, according to the study’s lead author, **Lindsay Mayberry, PhD**, assistant professor of Medicine. The study followed 3,000 patients hospitalized for cardiovascular disease at Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital with acute coronary syndrome, heart failure or both. The study considered how sick patients were- co-morbidities, type of cardiovascular disease, recent hospitalizations- but also looked at social and behavioral factors including social support, medication adherence, smoking behavior and physical activity.

New Test Assists Physicians with Quicker Treatment Decisions for Sepsis

A new test to determine whether antibiotics will be effective against certain bacterial infections is helping physicians make faster and better prescription treatment choices. According to **Ritu Banerjee, MD, PhD**, associate professor of Pediatrics at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, time is of the essence. Dr. Banerjee and her colleagues sought a way to shorten the wait time until the appropriate medication could be started to treat the infection.

All-in-one pill helps reduce blood pressure, cholesterol

“The pill may address some of the barriers that contribute to disparities in health based on geography, socioeconomic class and other parameters that we know have existed in this country and other countries for a while now,” said senior author **Thomas Wang, MD**, chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. “Patients seeking care at community health centers have traditionally been under-represented in clinical trials. We need to better understand what works and what doesn’t in these settings so we can improve outcomes for our fellow citizens who may be the most vulnerable,” said lead author **Daniel Muñoz, MD**, a cardiologist at VUMC.

Social Risk Factors Influence Health Outcomes, Medicare Payment

“These findings are important because they lay out how to account for social risk factors and strengthen incentives to deliver high-quality care to disadvantaged groups,” according to co-authors **Melinda Buntin, PhD**, chair of Health Policy in the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and John Ayanian, MD, MPP, director of the University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. “Previously, some argued you could only do one or the other.”

Study defines association of oral anticoagulants and proton pump inhibitors to gastrointestinal-bleeding-risk

Oral anticoagulants, which prevent blood clot formation, are among the most widely prescribed medications in the United States. A study published in JAMA shows that patients already at higher risk for gastrointestinal

bleeding gain a marked protection from this risk when they take a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) in combination with an oral anticoagulant. “The data suggest that if you give a population oral anticoagulants, 1 to 1.5

percent will have major upper gastrointestinal bleeding every year; that’s a major side effect,” said lead author **Wayne Ray, PhD**, professor of Health Policy at VUMC.

Risk of Incident Lung Cancer Drops by 39% Five Years After Smokers Quit

Hilary Tindle, MD, MPH, Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Tobacco, Addiction and Lifestyle, found the risk of lung cancer drops substantially within five years of quitting smoking but, even 25 years after quitting, lung-cancer risk remained over threefold higher compared to people who had never smoked. “If you smoke, now is a great time to quit,” said **Dr. Tindle** in a statement. “While the importance of smoking cessation cannot be overstated, former heavy smokers need to realize that the risk of lung cancer remains elevated for decades after they smoke their last cigarette, underscoring the importance of lung cancer screening.” said **Matthew Freiberg, MD, MSc**, professor of Medicine, senior author of the study published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Diabetes Drug Study Explores Cardiovascular risks for Patients with Kidney Disease

The study published in JAMA concluded that among patients with diabetes and reduced kidney function persisting with monotherapy, treatment with metformin, compared with a sulfonyleurea, was associated with a lower risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE). “Until recently the use of metformin in patients with diabetes and impaired kidney function was cautioned against due to safety concerns. The effectiveness of metformin demonstrated in this study will further support a potential change in prescribing practices for these patients. We believe these results should encourage providers to continue use of metformin in mild-to-moderate kidney disease,” said a leader of the study, **Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH**, associate professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at VUMC.

Health Disparity for Blacks Exists within Lung Screening Guidelines

The study published in JAMA Oncology reviewed cancer incidence data on 48,364 smokers from the Southern Community Cohort Study in one of the largest comprehensive evaluations to date of lung cancer screening guidelines established by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. **Melinda Aldrich, PhD, MPH**, assistant professor of Thoracic Surgery and fellow researchers concluded that those guidelines may be too conservative for African Americans, setting the stage for later diagnoses and reduced odds of survival.

Grant set to Boost Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

The T32 postdoctoral training grant from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality will support the Vanderbilt Patient, pRactice Outcomes and Research in Effectiveness and Systems Science (PROGRESS) Training Program. Directors are **Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH**, associate professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, and **Carlos Grijalva, MD, MPH**, associate professor of Health Policy. “The PROGRESS Program will enhance our ability to teach and train researchers, enhancing Vanderbilt’s position at the forefront as a Learning Health System,” Dr. Roumie said.

Team Set to Study Undiagnosed Congenital Diarrhea in Infants

James Goldenring, MD, PhD, Paul W. Sanger Professor of Experiential Surgery, will serve as Vanderbilt’s principal site investigator and consortium co-principal investigator to research undiagnosed congenital diarrheas caused by a single gene mutation.

Patients of Surgeons with Higher Reports of Unprofessional Behaviors are More Likely to Suffer Complication

The study published in JAMA Surgery reports patients of surgeons with higher numbers of reports from co-workers about unprofessional behavior are significantly more likely to experience complications during or after their operations. **William Cooper, MD, MPH**, Vice President for Patient and Professional Advocacy at VUMC and team concluded that compared with patients whose surgeons had no reports, those whose surgeons were reported for unprofessional behavior in the 36 months before their operations were more likely to have wound infections and other complications including pneumonia, blood clots, renal failure, stroke and heart attack.

More than just a number: Dr. Harvey Murff Urges Providers to Rethink Senior Care

Harvey J. Murff, MD, MPH, has been instrumental in research and training efforts geared toward creating better outcomes for older Americans.

“We want to see more influx of younger medical students interested in geriatrics and who decide to pursue that as a career,” Dr. Murff said. “There have been more and more combined programs after residency and fellowship, and a growing aging population means there are healthy older folks not getting therapy they need because of preconceived notions.”

Awards and Honors



Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, SFHM, professor of Medicine and director of the Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research in the Institute for Medicine and Public Health, was **honored with the VUSN Dean's Award** for Outstanding Service to Faculty and Students.



Amanda Mixon, MD, MSPH was selected as an expert for the World Health Organization's Global Patient Safety Challenge on Medication Without Harm: Early global action to support implementation. Dr. Mixon was appointed to co-chair Scientific Abstracts and Co-leader of Research Networking Session, for the 2018 Southern Society of General Internal Medicine (SSGIM) meeting in New Orleans, LA.



Tina Hartert, MD, MPH, was appointed to National Asthma Education Prevention Program Expert Panel to develop national asthma management guidelines, NIH (2018-present).



Digna R. Velez Edwards, PhD, was **named Director of Women's Health Research**, succeeding long-time Director and founder, Katherine Hartmann, MD, PhD.



Wesley Ely, MD, MPH, professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt university school of Medicine with sub-specialty training in Pulmonary and critical Care Medicine, was appointed to the Grant W. Liddle endowed chair, which was awarded based on his outstanding accomplishments in conducting patient-oriented research at Vanderbilt for almost 20 years around the central theme of brain injury during and following critical illness.



Justin Bachmann, MD, was selected by the ACC Research Fellowship Awards Committee to **receive the ACC Presidential Career Development Award** which provides \$70,000 in funding during 2019 and 2020. The award is designed to support junior faculty in the early phases of their careers in the field of cardiology.



Gordon Bernard, MD, received the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award for the Society for Critical Care Medicine.



William Martinez, MD, MS, received the **ABIM Foundation's John A. Benson Jr., MD Professionalism Article Prize**.



Vanderbilt University's **Melinda Buntin, PhD**, professor of Health Policy and chair of the department, and **Joshua Denny, MD, MS**, Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Medicine and Vice President for Personalized Medicine, were among 70 new members **elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM)**.



Awards and Honors



William Schaffner, MD, Professor of Preventive Medicine at VUMC **received the 2017 UpShot Award in Vaccine Communication** from the The National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, Dr. Schaffner received the 2017 SHEA Senior Scholarship Award from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). He also received the Infectious Diseases Society of America D.A. Henderson Award and was elected to the Tennessee Health Care Hall of Fame.



Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS, **received the Society for Pediatric Research 2019 Young Investigator Award**, an honor bestowed upon a young physician who has embarked on a career in investigative pediatrics. In addition, Dr. Patrick received the **Nemours Child Health Services Research Award**, recognizing his work surrounding neonatal abstinence syndrome, a drug withdrawal syndrome experienced by infants exposed to opioids while in utero.



Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MSCI, Executive Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, was appointed to a national committee charged with determining how best to return to research participants the results from studies of their blood and other bio-specimens. In addition, Dr. Wilkins was **named to the newly created positions** of Vice President for Health Equity at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Associate Dean for Health Equity with the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.



Sara Van Driest, MD, PhD, assistant professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Vanderbilt, **received the 2019 Leon I. Goldberg Early Investigator Award** from the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.



Cecilia P. Chung, MD, assistant professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology & Immunology received the Vanderbilt School of Nursing Dean's Award for Outstanding Service to Faculty and Students.



Shari Barkin, MD, MSHS, Division Chief of General Pediatrics at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, was **honored recently with the 2019 Academic Pediatric Association (APA) Research Award**.



Julia C. Phillippi, PhD, FACNM, CNM, assistant professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt School of Nursing, was **inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN)** and honored during the AAN's annual policy conference.



Kevin Johnson, MD, MS, the Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor and chair of Biomedical Informatics, professor of Pediatrics and Informatician-in-Chief at VUMC, was named to **NIH Council of Councils**.



Christian Rosas-Salazar, MD, MPH, associate professor of Pediatrics, was elected to the Society for Pediatric Research in 2018.

Awards and Honors



Derek Griffith, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Health, and Society, founder and Director of the Center for Research on Men's Health at Vanderbilt was **recognized for major contributions** in the field of health behavior research.



Harvey Murff, MD, MPH Associate Professor of Medicine and a practicing General Internist at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Nashville Veterans Affairs Hospital joined the **Fight CRC Medical Advisory Board**.



Sandra Simmons, PhD, named to Paul V. Hamilton, MD, Chair in Geriatrics. Dr. Simmons was recognized by Interim Chancellor and Provost Susan R. Wenthe, deans, colleagues, family members and donors for extraordinary academic achievements in a celebration to honor faculty members who have been named to endowed chairs.



Quinn Wells, PharmD, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, named to the inaugural list of Next Gen Innovators by Cardiology Today. He will be representing the next generation of cardiologists who are working to educate their colleagues, conduct research on new and novel strategies to advance CV care, and innovate the unique aspects of the cardiology specialty.



Christopher Lindsell, PhD, a professor of Biostatistics, director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR) Research Methods Program and associate director of VUMC's Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research. has been **named a new co-director for The HEAlth Data Science (HEADS) Center** at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



Simpson Bobo Tanner, IV, MD, CCD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology & Immunology received the 2017 Tennessee Rheumatology Society's Presidents Award for improving patient care.



Frank Harrell, Jr, PhD, professor of Biostatistics, **received the Distinguished Service to Translational Scientists Award**. The awards were presented Oct. 14 at the Vanderbilt Student Life Center during the annual Vanderbilt Translational Research Forum, a showcase of research that "translates" basic science discoveries into clinical practice and meaningful health outcomes.



David Penson, MD, MPH, Paul V. Hamilton, M.D., and Virginia E. Howd Professor of Urologic Oncology and chair of the Department of Urologic Surgery, has been **selected to chair the American Urological Association (AUA) Science & Quality Council**. Dr. Penson was **named an associate editor** for The Journal of the National Cancer Institute (JNCI).



Jonathan Schildcrout, PhD was named American Statistical Association Fellow.

Awards and Honors



Deonni Stollendorf, PhD, received the **VUSN Dean's 2018 Award** for Recognition of Faculty Achievement in Research Endeavors.



William Heerman, MD, MPH, assistant professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, was awarded the Top Ten Abstracts from the 6th Annual Diversity Tour for the research in diverse population work "A Qualitative Study of Pregnant Latina Women's Perceptions of Maternal Gestational Weight Gain". The goal of the Diversity Tour is to highlight work in the field of obesity that includes a focus on diverse populations.



Nathan E. Brummel, MD, was awarded the 2017 Global Rising Star Fellowship from the Australia New Zealand Intensive Care Society where he presented his research on impairments and disabilities after critical illness in Gold Coast, Australia.



Christopher Hughes, MD, Associate Professor at Division of Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine was recognized with the Department of Anesthesiology's Smith Menztorship Award and Chair's Award of Distinction.



Ann F. Minnick, PhD, RN, FAAN, received the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Foundation Award for Outstanding Research and Mentorship of CRNAs.



Marie Griffin, MD, MPH, Professor of Health Policy and Medicine in the Department of Health Policy, **received Vanderbilt University Medical Center Endowed Directorship** in Public Health Research and Education.



Roger Dmochowski, MD, MMHC, Professor of Urology and Gynecology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, **received the 2019 Victor A. Politano Award** from the American Urological Association (AUA) for outstanding research and work in the field of urinary incontinence and for enhancing the treatment of incontinent patients, thereby helping to improve their quality of life.



Sean Collins, MD, MSc, Executive Vice Chair and Professor of Emergency Medicine and Director of the Center for Emergency Care Research and Innovation, **received Vanderbilt University Medical Center Endowed Clinical Directorship** for Emergency Medicine Research.



David Stevenson, PhD, Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Health Policy, **received VUMC Endowed Directorship** in Health Policy Education.

Awards and Honors



Sarah Jaser, PhD, received 2019 Award for Highly Cited Article published in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology.



Alexander T. Hawkins, MD, MPH, assistant professor of Surgery, received a SAGES Coin of Excellence for my work on the Colorectal Task Force Committee.



Velma McBride Murry, PhD, Lois Audrey Betts Chair in Education and Human Development and Professor of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University, has been appointed to National Institutes of Health Psychosocial Development, Risk, and Prevention (PDRP) Grant Review Study Section, 2016-2020. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of their research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors.



Russell Rothman, MD, MPP, Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research and chief of the Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Section; professor of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics & Health Policy and vice president for Population Health Research at Vanderbilt University, was **appointed President of the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare (AACH)** in January 2018. Dr. Rothman was recognized by Vanderbilt University for his extraordinary academic achievements in a celebration to **honor faculty members who have been named to endowed chairs**.



James Powers, MD, Chief of Geriatric Medicine, VAMC was awarded 2016 Iris Award for support of Nashville Area Dietetics and Nutritionists.



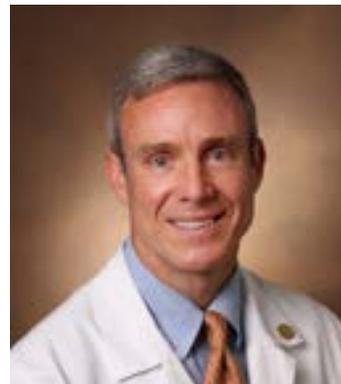
Matthew Weinger, MD, received J. S. Gravenstein Award for “significant contributions to the advancement of anesthesia technology throughout their career” from the Society for Technology in Anesthesia (STA).



Carlos Grijalva, MD, MPH, received **John S. Sergent Award** for teaching medical or graduate students in the small group setting at the Spring Faculty Meeting.



Melinda Buntin, PhD, Wes Ely, MD, MPH and Ed Trevathan, MD, MPH were recognized by Vanderbilt University for their extraordinary academic achievements in a celebration to **honor faculty members who have been named to endowed chairs**.



Panel Discussions and Special Events



NEJM Catalyst forum addresses mental, behavioral and social health determinants

“**Expanding the Bounds of Care Delivery: Integrating Mental, Social, and Physical Health,**” NEJM Catalyst brought together innovative leaders and researchers to explore why current care and payment models discourage integration of mental health and social determinants of health with primary, specialty, and acute care. Three panels, including one led by **Russell Rothman, MD,**

MPP, and **Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MSCI,** explored how society can redefine health and health care, demonstrate how some organizations have overcome the systemic barriers, and discuss building ecosystems of integrated care for entire communities.



Congressional Hearing

Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy in the Division of Neonatology at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, **testified before Congress** about the rise and impact of drug withdrawal symptoms in newborns, also known as neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). The hearing was on the opioid crisis and its impact on children and families.

Gun Violence Prevention: A Community Conversation

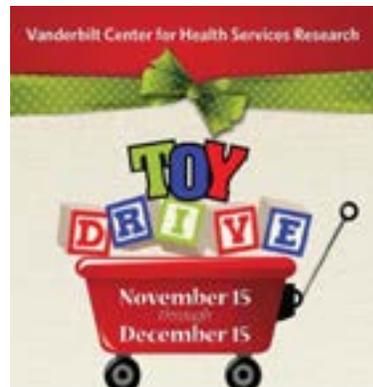
A **panel discussion on gun violence prevention,** along with a moderated public debate, was held at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. “It’s evident in our society that there are many issues surrounding guns that are divisive,” said Dr. Jonathan Metz, Vanderbilt psychiatrist, sociologist and director of the Center for Medicine, Health and Society. “But we hope to address these issues based on academics, research and expertise in a way that might help move the debate forward.”



(photo by Gediyon Kifle)

CHSR Community Service and Social Events

Members of the Center for Health Services Research represent diverse disciplines and work in areas throughout the 2525 West End Avenue building, Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Nashville. Collaboration among researchers is fostered through research seminars, community service, group meetings and shared space. Throughout the year social events provide an environment where faculty and staff can connect and build community. [View event photos here.](#)



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