



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

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Health Careers Futures Receives \$3.6 Million for Next Phase of Statewide Initiative to Transform the Long-Term Care Workforce

Health Careers Futures, an operating arm of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), has announced \$3.6 million in funding to support the second phase of the Revisiting Teaching Nursing Home Initiative. The initiative aims to transform nursing education and enhance the nursing home workforce, ultimately advancing the quality of care provided to older adults. [The John A. Hartford Foundation](#) will provide a \$3.3 million, three-year grant to support Phase II, *Dissemination Across PA*, to build upon the successes of the Teaching Nursing Home pilot. JHF will provide an additional \$300,000, three-year grant to also support this next phase.



Phase I of the Revisiting Teaching Nursing Home Initiative, carried out by JHF with academic–nursing home partners from the western, central, and eastern regions of Pennsylvania, increased the frequency and quality of nursing student placements in nursing homes, enriched geriatric, and long-term care curricula, and implemented the [Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms Framework \(what Matters, Medication, Mentation and Mobility\)](#) across nursing homes and schools of nursing. The pilot confirmed the value of formalizing clinical rotations for students in nursing homes using codesign principles and helped to identify specific skills and training that should be included in the academic and practice settings.

Further, the pilot identified opportunities to leverage the strength of the Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms Framework for nursing homes and for scaling the initiative to all nursing homes and schools of nursing across Pennsylvania. As a result of this effort, 591 residents have received Age-Friendly Health Systems care; 677 nursing home staff members have been trained on the 4Ms, and 510 nursing students have engaged with the 4Ms in the nursing home.

“The first phase of this initiative was exciting in how it demonstrated the ability to simultaneously improve nursing home quality and introduce a positive experience for nursing students. The success of this pilot inspired us to further invest in dissemination of the model across the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” said Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation. “As we look to enhance nursing home quality and address workforce issues,

we are grateful to have the participation and interest from our federal agency partners who can help achieve national solutions.”

Phase II will concentrate on taking the model to scale across Pennsylvania, with the goal of reaching 100% of nursing homes and schools of nursing in the Commonwealth. This will be achieved by engaging broad stakeholders to build a sustainable infrastructure across Pennsylvania, employing strategies demonstrated to improve residents' quality of care and outcomes within nursing homes, maximizing the engagement of the key partners and leaders from Phase I to scale and expand the Revisiting Teaching Nursing Home model to 30 schools of nursing and 400 nursing homes across Pennsylvania, and evaluating interventions and broadly disseminating the framework, resources, and lessons learned beyond Pennsylvania. HCF will be partnering with 12 subcontractors for Phase II, including Phase I partner schools of nursing (University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University, and University of Pennsylvania) and nursing facilities (UPMC Canterbury Place, The Willows/Presbyterian SeniorCare, Wesley Enhanced Living Main Line, and Centre Care Rehabilitation and Wellness). New partners include the Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration, Pennsylvania Higher Education Nursing Schools Association, AMDA—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, and Leading Age/Moving Forward Coalition.

Phase I of the Revisiting Teaching Nursing Home Initiative was supported through funding from The John A. Hartford Foundation (lead funder), JHF, the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Independence Foundation. JHF anticipates securing additional funding to support Phase II of the initiative.

Behavioral Health Fellows Program Welcomes Inaugural Cohort

The Behavioral Health (BH) Fellows program welcomed its inaugural 27-person cohort on June 13 at Phipps Conservatory as part of a one and a half day retreat. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald joined the cohort to kick off the program and celebrate the work of building capacity within the behavioral health workforce in Allegheny County.

The BH Fellows program is an innovative Allegheny County-sponsored workforce initiative, in partnership with Community Care Behavioral Health and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), to make behavioral health jobs in target service areas sustainable and attractive for new and existing employees. JHF was named the lead partner for the orientation and training programs component.

The first cohort consists of family-based therapists and clinicians, substance use disorder case managers, service coordinators, and crisis clinicians from 11 providers based in Allegheny County.



The inaugural 27-person cohort poses at the Fellowship kickoff at Phipps Conservatory.

The program provides educational loan repayments (up to \$25,000 for a bachelor's degree or up to \$45,000 for a master's degree), competitive salaries, and career development experiences to behavioral healthcare staff in exchange for a two-year commitment to work at an approved provider within a specific role. With over \$15M in funding, this program is designed to attract and retain individuals dedicated to improving the lives of the County's most vulnerable.



Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald addresses the BH Fellows.

The BH Fellows program's professional development curriculum supports the growth of participating fellows through skill building, peer-to-peer learning and support opportunities, and networking within and among cohorts and community leaders. During the monthly sessions, from June to December, participants of the first cohort will discuss themes of burnout, safety, implicit bias and cultural humility, ethics, conflict resolution, and working in interprofessional teams. Training will continue throughout 2024, and programming will be developed in further partnership with provider sites and based on feedback from participants.

Recruitment is ongoing for the BH Fellows program.

The application deadline for the next cohort is July 15. Those seeking new positions in behavioral health jobs and existing staff at participating provider sites are welcome to apply. There are options for those without any prior experience in behavioral health. [Visit here](#) for more program details and to apply.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh Takes to the Streets for Annual Too Hot for July Community Celebration

Too Hot For July, [AIDS Free Pittsburgh's \(AFP\)](#) annual biomedical awareness event, gathered 1,500 community members on June 1 in block party style to recognize, commemorate, and celebrate the communities affected by HIV and raise awareness about advancements in prevention and care that can end the epidemic.

Established in 2015, AFP is a public health movement to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County. AFP is comprised of government agencies, healthcare systems, and community organizations collectively focused on education, outreach, and advocacy work to reach AFP's goals to reduce new HIV infections by 75% and declare Allegheny County AIDS-free. JHF serves as the fiscal agent for AFP.



AIDS Free Pittsburgh's Community Outreach & Engagement Coordinator Hazell Azzer takes center stage during THFJ. (Photo courtesy of Chad Isaiah)

Organized by True T PGH and AFP, *Too Hot For July*, held on Hamilton Street in the Larimer and Homewood area, was a spectacle of celebration and solidarity. DreamDoll, a New York based rapper and musician, gave an electrifying headlining performance. Event hosts included local figures Wadria Taylor, Naheen Binion, and Pissy. Attendees were treated to a street dance party featuring premier Pittsburgh DJs, musical performances, and artists, including Pillz, Auntie Chanel, Huny, Joshua Orange, Manny Dibachi, 412Step, Lexa Terrestrial, and Alumni Theatre Company. The festivities included a vogue dance battle and a twerk-off with cash prizes and trophies, organized and judged by Pittsburgh Ballroom leaders.

The event provided resources and services to the community, including multiple local food trucks, a vendor marketplace that showcased local small businesses, and a health fair with partnering health care and community-based organizations. Free HIV and STD testing, as well as other wellness services, were offered by Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health and Allies for Health + Wellbeing. Healthcare professionals and staff from partnering organizations were available to answer questions about HIV prevention, treatment, and more.

While local HIV infections have decreased, there remain health disparities, particularly among Black men who have sex with men and with late diagnoses. This event was a powerful platform to address this public health crisis and emphasized getting tested and participating in preventive care that can end the HIV epidemic.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh's Community Outreach & Engagement Coordinator Hazell Azzer helped curate part of the programming with participants from a series of combo sexual health and vogue workshops at True T. Their vogue workshops provided participants with a platform to refine their dance skills and discuss sexual health topics by creating a supportive environment and empowering participants to express themselves freely. The workshops fostered a sense of community and instilled a powerful sense of self-confidence in one's health and wellbeing. The group named themselves the Ghey-navy and their vogue performances at the event showcased incredible talent and creativity, captivating the audience.

According to Luis, a student of the workshop, "Hazell is an incredible instructor, their impact must be witnessed firsthand to truly comprehend." Another student, Shy'Ann, reflected on the experience, saying, "Hazell's presence makes me believe in my ability to achieve anything, to embrace any identity, and to embody the essence of greatness."



The event's resounding success was made possible by the collaboration of True T PGH, Klvn Coffee Lab, Spirit, Goodlander Cocktail Brewery, Flyspace Productions, and Honcho. This event was generously supported by Allegheny Singer Research Institute (AHN), UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Allies for Health + Wellbeing, Highmark WholeCare, Pittsburgh Area Center for Treatment, Metro Community Health Center, Hugh Lane Wellness

JHF staff attend THFJ to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh and take part in the day's festivities.

Foundation, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, Prevention Point Pittsburgh, Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, The Open Door, University of Pittsburgh Research, Coordinated Care Network, Shepherd Wellness Community, and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

Patient Safety Challenge Fellowship Brings a \$5,000 Competition to its Multidisciplinary Cohort

The 19th annual Patient Safety Fellowship launched on May 31st to help inspire and equip students and innovators to reimagine safer care. This year's 37 fellows have been challenged to start from a patient/family perspective and redesign care for that group to be vastly safer. The Fellowship will conclude at the [Health Care Redesign Expo & Award Ceremony](#) where teams of fellows will showcase their ideas and one team will walk away with a \$5,000 prize. The Fellowship builds on the work the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative started last year with the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#).



Dr. Karen Feinstein welcomes the Patient Safety Challenge Fellowship cohort.

During the summer leading up to the finale, fellows will work with renowned mentors to help shape their vision. The curriculum includes sessions with national leaders in patient safety to help inform the fellows' understanding of the existing patient safety landscape and opportunities for reinventing the system.

"As a nurse and leader, I am focused on improving patient safety every day," said Jennifer Callear, MSN, doctor of nursing practice candidate at the University of Pittsburgh and nurse manager at WVU Medicine Heart and Vascular Institute. "The Jewish Healthcare Foundation brings the best and most thoughtful leaders in patient safety to speak and generate thoughts and ideas from the fellows. The sessions have been an inspiration and will build on my experiences and knowledge in the field of patient safety."



Fellows have formed 16 different teams to participate in the competition.

The expo-style Finale on Monday, August 14 will take place at the Energy Innovation Center in Pittsburgh. Academic and healthcare leaders from the Pittsburgh region will be invited to the finale to hear fellows' ideas. A panel of Pittsburgh-based judges will pick a winning team from the submissions, and the team will receive a \$5,000 cash prize. Attendees at the Finale will also be able to vote for a separate \$500 People's Choice Award also to be given out during the programming.

This year's fellowship cohort is made up of 37 fellows that range from undergraduate students to graduate and doctoral students to young professionals with a diverse range of backgrounds including medicine, nursing, health policy, health administration,

health informatics, pharmacy, philosophy, design, and engineering. The fellows have formed 16 different teams, and some of the teams even include non-fellow members.

“Having witnessed the complexities and barriers in the US healthcare system, I have recognized a lack of responsibility that is taken for the safety of patients, with the burden often placed on healthcare providers rather than the system itself,” said Alexander Geht, MSC, industrial designer and founder of Testa Seat. “My aim is to contribute my expertise and reimagine health care from a patient and family perspective and hope to help make a safer model of care.”

RAPS Seed Grant Program Opens Request for Proposals

The RAPS Seed Grant Program is now accepting proposals for multidisciplinary Research & Development teams, start-ups or tech companies in the Pittsburgh region that are developing, testing, or adopting an autonomous solution to prevent medical errors.

To establish Pittsburgh as a global tech hub for developing autonomous patient safety technologies, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative created the [Regional Autonomous Patient Safety \(RAPS\) initiative](#) in 2022. Its goal is to address the triple crisis of workforce shortages, increased rates of injury and harm, and a deterioration of patient safety measures.



The RAPS Seed Grant Program is designed to support multidisciplinary Research & Development (R&D) teams, start-ups, or tech companies in the Pittsburgh region that are in the *earliest stages* of developing, testing, and promoting autonomous, technology-enabled solutions to prevent harm in health care.

Applications are currently being accepted with funding being awarded based on the extent to which the autonomous patient safety solution is aligned with what healthcare providers need to work in a safe environment and the extent to which it is aligned with federal funding opportunities. Applications will be due October 13, 2023 with \$300,000 available to be awarded in total. Deadlines, application requirements, and additional details about the RFP can be found [here](#).

First RAPS Patient Safety R&D Salon Highlights Digital Twin Technology

The first Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) Research and Development Salon convened over 50 innovators, researchers, and technology entrepreneurs from across the Pittsburgh region on June 29 to learn about digital twin technology, patient safety research efforts at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, and funding opportunities to advance patient safety technology research and development in the region.

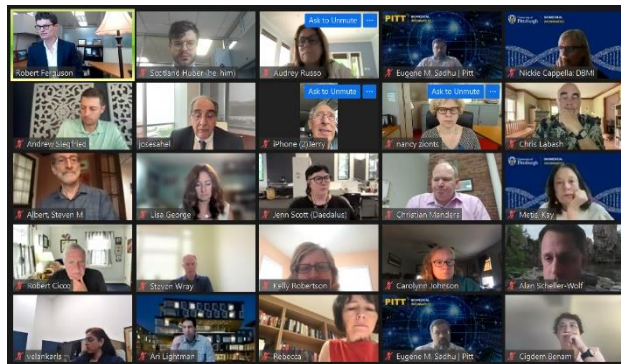
A salon is a gathering of individuals from various disciplines and organizations who come together to engage in intellectual discussions, share ideas, and inspire the development of innovative solutions. The RAPS Salons are designed to stimulate a pipeline of new patient safety R&D activity in the region by encouraging participants to learn about patient safety priorities and market opportunities, hear about the needs of providers, patients and payers to prevent harm in health care; explore applications of technologies to prevent harm in health care; establish connections across verticals for patient safety R&D and discover participants' strengths and interests; monitor funding opportunities and identify opportunities to joint file for grants; and identify tactics for improving the development and implementation of tech in health care.

The Pittsburgh region is primed to become a leader in creating patient safety technology solutions by deploying its regional assets in robotics, AI/ML, Big Data Analytics, and integrated delivery systems.

During the meeting, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative announced the opening of the [RAPS Seed Grant](#) request for proposals, which includes \$300,000 to support patient safety research and development in the region.

José-Alain Sahel, MD, Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, gave a presentation on “The Digital Twin Project to Inform Safe, Optimal Treatment Decisions.” During his presentation, Dr. Sahel defined digital twins, reviewed the Digital Twin Project, and commented on Pittsburgh’s potential to become a leader in applying Digital Twin analytics to prevent harm in health care. Following the presentation, JHF’s Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH facilitated a discussion on the novel application of digital twins to patient safety and Pittsburgh’s potential to become a leader.

Sandra Kane-Gill, Eugene Mathew, Nickie Cappella, and Michael Becich of the University of Pittsburgh Department of Biomedical Informatics provided an update on the Pitt Medical Error Avoidance at Region Scale (MEARS) Study, the data sharing infrastructure and collaboration with the CMU Initiative for Patient Safety Research (IPSR), and the Pitt/R3 data and secure computing infrastructure. A discussion was also held on how this collaboration can lead to a collaborative



Over 50 attendees joined the first RAPS Patient Safety R&D Salon on June 29.

proposal for funding to the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) for the RAPS, Pitt, and CMU patient safety research.

To register for upcoming Salons in 2023, visit [the RAPS initiative page here](#).

JHF Travels to Norway and Finland for Study Tour

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation Study Tour took place June 5-14 visiting various sites in Norway and Finland for lively discussions and to learn from key providers and innovators there in patient safety, women's health, aging, dementia care, and teen mental health.

JHF has been studying international health systems since its first study tour in 2009 and has since organized or participated in trips to Israel, England, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, South Africa, Canada, and South Korea. The goal of the study tours is to meet key players in policy, health care, and delivery, as well as recipients of care to see first-hand and discuss how the systems of care are working and extract what lessons can be learned or enhancements to pre-existing systems of care in the United States.



Helenski Synagogue, Finland

"JHF and WHAMglobal's study tours have proven to be invaluable for our learning, for our network building, and for our opportunities to advance best practice and policy in this country," said Debra Caplan, MPA, Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Board Chair of WHAMglobal.



Study tour participants meet with Bent Høie, founder of UKOM and County Governor of Rogaland (fourth from left), and his staff.

Both Finland and Norway have a head start on patient safety structure with inspiring national organizations. Neither of their organizations set penalties or sanctions, and they do not regulate. They both rely on other organizations for accountability within their systems. Finland and Norway's patient safety organizations are deliberately and staunchly interdisciplinary.

In Norway, tour participants met with members of the Norwegian Healthcare Investigation Board (NHIB/UKOM), an independent government agency focused on creating research studies and using interdisciplinary reflection panels to respond to the studies. The group also and held meetings with Dr.

Guttorm Brattebo, Haukeland University; Arvid Steiner Haugen, a nurse researcher engaging patients in the use of checklists; Bent Høie, of the Office of the County Governor of Rogaland; Siri Wiig, PhD, center director and professor of Quality and Safety in Healthcare Systems at the University of Stavanger; and Joy Buikema Fjærtøft, Directorate of Health. At the conclusion of the Norway trip, the group met with Jannicke Mellin-Olsen, secretary of the European Society of Anesthesiology and the president-elect of the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists to discuss patient safety, to reflect on our findings throughout the country.

Finland has the Finnish Centre for Client and Patient Safety and a national strategy on patient safety. They are aspiring towards worldwide leadership in healthcare safety by 2026, and they have a Healthcare Investigation Authority with over 130 interdisciplinary experts issuing recommendations on safety improvements. In Finland, participants met with Finnish Center for Client and Patient Safety personnel at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, including Hanna Tiirinki from the Safety Investigation Authority; Tuija Ikonen, director of the Finnish Centre for Client and Patient Safety; Kaisa Halinen, senior ministerial adviser at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; Sonja Jantunen, legal adviser at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; and Kaisa Halinen, senior ministerial adviser at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.



Tour participants learn from staff at the Finnish Centre for Client and Patient Safety.



Dementia Village in Oslo, Norway.

Norway and Finland are generally accepted as being two of the best countries for elderly care. Norway supports its elderly in a number of ways, including a government-funded care system, numerous social opportunities, and high-quality public health care.

In Oslo, the tour met with aging sites and partners, touring Oslo's first Dementia Village. Study tour participants also visited the Share-centre in Norway to discuss youth mental health, resilience in health care, and the nursing home workforce.

In Norway, a commission was appointed by Royal Decree in 2021 to assess women's health in Norway and health from a sex and gender perspective. The original report was delivered to the Ministry of Health and Care Services approximately three months before the study tour. Participants met with Maria Egeland

Thorsnes, Head of Secretariat and Jeanette Magnus, MD, faculty of medicine at the University of Norway, who leads the Centre for Global Health at the University of Oslo, to discuss the Norwegian public commission on women's health and health from a sex and gender perspective and to discuss the recent study on Women's Heart Health. The group also met with associate professor at the University of Norway Dana Cramariuc on sex and gender disparities in heart valve disease.

In Finland, visits included Loppukiri Communal senior housing, a communal independent living community by seniors for seniors, and participants learned about prevention of cognitive impairment through the Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability (FINGER) study, which highlights the value of addressing multiple dementia risk factors as a strategy to protect brain health, promote overall health and functioning, and reduce the risk of developing new chronic disease. The study tour was invited for dinner at the home of Vappu Taipale, the former head of the National Research Center for Welfare and Health.

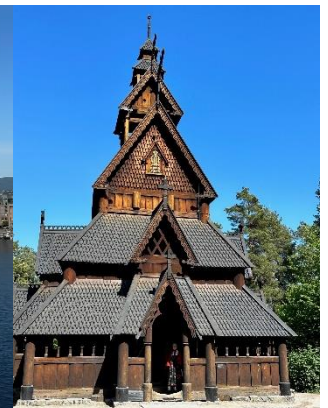


Study tour participants meet with women's health specialists at Sentralblokken, Haukeland University Hospital in Norway.



Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities in Oslo, Norway.

Some of the next steps identified from the study tour are to take learning from the national patient safety organizations to inform ongoing work to establish a National Patient Safety Board in the U.S.; connect those working in women's heart health with researchers in U.S. to focus on implementation and lessons learned around blood pressure, pregnancy, and drug and treatment protocols; connect U.S. Dementia researchers and programs with the FINGER study with a focus on lifestyle interventions; introduce the Stavanger University team focused on workforce with the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative led by JHF; and raise awareness of the senior living models experienced on the study tour to the attention of U.S. planners.



(L-R): Oodi Library in Helsinki Finland; Stavanger, Norway; Gol Stave Church in Oslo, Norway

WHAMglobal Board Discusses Women's Health Lessons from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Norway, and Finland

The WHAMglobal Board convened on June 21 for a presentation on women's health equity at the international level. During the meeting, Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD and JHF COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts provided a high-level overview of takeaways from the recent JHF study tour to Norway and Finland and the Commonwealth Fund tour to Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore.



In March, WHAMglobal made the unanimous decision to shift its focus to *Women's Health Inequity in Older Age*, including the stereotypes and biases women face, lack of research into women's health, and the impact this blind spot in health systems has on women as they age.

The recent study tours shed light on how disparities are accounted for, viewed, and addressed at a systems level in the five countries visited.

Of the study tours, Dr. Feinstein noted the most creative solutions cut across disciplines, are broad-based, involving housing, mental health, social connectedness, medical care, nutrition, exercise, and other areas of wellness and care. They also involve technological innovations. An important takeaway from the study tours was also that parity does not directly equate to having access to the same care as men; menstruation, fertility, childbirth, and menopause have a profound effect on diagnosis and treatment.

Additionally, Australia's 45 and Up Study, Singapore's response to its rapidly aging population with age-friendly living environments which allow seniors to age in place, and Norway's establishment of a Women's Health Commission to study why gender and sex matter were steppingstones for discussion on the future work of WHAMglobal.

Focuses from the trips which WHAMglobal looks to carry forward in its work are:

- The importance of raising the prestige of women's health by introducing financial incentives to prioritize women's health, increasing funding for research in women's health, the inclusion of sex and gender in medical research, and the importance of establishing a national committee for women's health;
- Ensuring coordination that allocates resources to ensure a systemic approach to women's health policy and improved cooperation between services as a prerequisite for equal health services;
- Improving channels of knowledge transfer by establishing systems for safeguarding sex and gender perspectives in decision-making within the healthcare sector, incorporating sex and gender in common curriculum for health and social care education, and incorporating sex and gender in public health information;

- Listening to women and integrating their experiences into decision-making processes in the area of health and creating systems where women are seen, heard, and taken seriously with their health and health care services.

The themes and priorities will continue to be jointly identified by JHF and WHAMglobal staff and the Board with discussion focusing on next steps, including identifying additional priorities and experts in the field who are not currently engaged by the Board.

Robert Ferguson Highlights NPSB Vision and Progress at 10th Annual World Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit

Robert Ferguson was a guest at the 10th Annual World Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit on June 1 and 2 in Newport Beach, CA, speaking on a panel about the [National Patient Safety Board \(NPSB\)](#).

Moderated by JHF Board member and President and CEO of The Leapfrog Group Leah Binder, the panel included Ferguson, Sir Liam Donaldson, Najmedin Meshkati, Sue Sheridan, and Abby Towfigh. Panelists discussed why a National Patient Safety Board is being recommended, its status, and what it should be able to do to make health care safer.



Pictured from left to right: Abby Towfigh, Sir Liam Donaldson, Robert Ferguson, Sue Sheridan, Najmedin Meshkati, and Leah Binder.

Ferguson explained the NPSB would include a public-private R&D team and healthcare safety team, solely focused on preventing harm. Its goal would be to achieve three core functions: Aggregate data across the public and private partners to identify and anticipate harm; study the precursors, causes, and contextual factors when abnormal patterns and recurring harm are identified; and develop solutions for public-private partners to adopt.

“In the midst of the current workforce crisis, this idea of R&D for new solutions is needed now more than ever. When healthcare organizations are experiencing 30 percent vacancy rates with frustrated, burned-out staff, we can’t expect them to follow more steps in a manual process without errors. Instead, we need to use human factors engineering and technology to support their work and re-configure their work environment, removing the “crash buttons” that are too present in health care,” Ferguson said.

Ferguson provided an update on the NPSB at the Summit, sharing that the NPSB Advocacy Coalition has secured both a Republican and Democratic sponsor in the House and that work is underway to revise the bill introduced last year. Members of the Coalition are also working with the White House Domestic Policy Council to identify opportunities for executive action.

During his remarks, Ferguson thanked Joe Kiani, founder, CEO and chairman of Masimo Corporation, for opening policy windows for the NPSB.

The [World Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit](#), organized and hosted by the Patient Safety Movement Foundation, featured world-renowned speakers and panelists discussing the latest challenges and solutions in patient safety. Attendees included patient safety experts, clinicians, healthcare administrators, government officials, representatives from MedTech and Biotech industries, patients and patient advocates, academicians, and policymakers. A recording of the panel is [available here](#).

The Health Summit at Sundance Discusses Technology and the Future of Health Care

The Health Summit at Sundance welcomed a select group of healthcare leaders and innovators to Utah to discuss the current state of health care in the United States, providing a supportive and closed-door environment to listen, learn, and brainstorm solutions on systemic healthcare issues.

Over the course of the four-day Summit, discussion focused on insights into problems facing the healthcare workforce, healthcare accessibility challenges, and extracting lessons from successful digital disruptors in other industries to apply in health care. Attendees deliberated solutions such as proactive reform, new and unique opportunities and partnerships, alternative approaches to care delivery in hospitals and clinics, ways to make purchase and use of insurance less complicated, and the use of predictive technology in health care.

On the second day of the Summit, Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD participated on the panel "Making a Digital Health Start-Up Balanced Scorecard: Our Wishlist." During the discussion, Dr. Feinstein spoke about safety goals and metrics, and detailed essential conditions to shape safety improvements, including JHF's work to establish a National Patient Safety Board.



Karen Wolk Feinstein Moderates Panel at CMU-K&L Gates Conference in Ethics and AI

Dr. Feinstein moderated the panel “AI and Societal Impact: Health Equity” at the two-day CMU-K&L Gates Conference in Ethics and AI held at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) June 21-22.

Panelists included: Yoel Sadovsky, MD, Executive Director of Magee-Womens Research Institute and Associate Dean of Women's Health Research and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh; Ahmad Pahlavan Tafti, PhD, FAMIA, Director of the Pitt HexAI Lab and Assistant Professor of Health Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh; and Yanshan Wang, PhD, FAMIA, Vice Chair of Research and Assistant Professor in Health Information Management at the University of Pittsburgh.



Karen Wolk Feinstein addresses the audience during the CMU-K&L Gates Conference. (Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University)

Dr. Feinstein led the discussion which covered topics such as the application of digital twin technology in health care, how computational innovations can help bridge the inequitable application of health care, ways in which data-informed decision making can augment health policy to increase the reach and efficacy of health care and health policy nationally, and how Pittsburgh institutions like CMU and the University of Pittsburgh can more closely collaborate on research and solutions within technology and health care.

The CMU-K&L Gates Conference in Ethics and AI brings together thought leaders from academia, industry, government and the media to go beyond the slogans and soundbites to debate the effects of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics on our society. The interdisciplinary talks aim to engage all affected communities and identify ways in which new technologies support and advance humanity.

Patient Safety Podcast Explores the Challenges of Translating Research into Practice

The latest episode *Up Next for Patient Safety* podcast welcomes two award-winning researchers and recipients of the John M. Eisenberg Award, Dr. Hardeep Singh of Baylor College of Medicine and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, and Dr. Jason Adelman of Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital, along with filmmaker Mike Eisenberg of Tall Tale Productions, son of the late John M. Eisenberg, to discuss how we can close the implementation gap to translate patient safety research into practice.



Listen to ["Designing Patient Safety with Urgency"](#) for a glimpse into the pioneering patient safety research happening today and the promise of tech-enabled solutions to epic clinicians in designing safer systems.

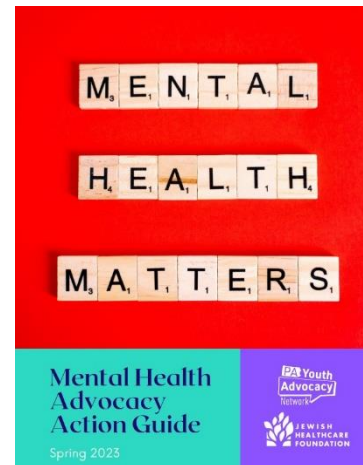
Teen Mental Health Advocacy Series Puts Learning into Action with Release of Teen Mental Health Action Guide

Participants in the PA Youth Advocacy Network's Teen Mental Health Advocacy Series put their learning into practice by creating an action guide around a mental health advocacy issue of their choice. The guide consists of a series of student-created final projects which provide background about a mental health topic and offer ideas and tools to act.

Launched in February of this year, the second annual series aimed to connect Pennsylvania high school students with advocacy skills, such as communicating their cause, using data for advocacy, and coalition-building. The 19 youth who participated in the Series are in 9-12 grade and represent seven counties across Pennsylvania.

The action guide is the culminating project of the Advocacy Series, which builds on JHF's years of effort to call for change in teen mental health through the PA Youth Advocacy Network. Students were dedicated to ensuring and equipping others to take action to address mental health in their community beyond the time of their involvement in the program. "In a time when there is an immense focus on addressing mental health, it is important to elevate and share teen generated solutions," said JHF Policy Associate Sarah Pesi, MSPPM.

Topics in the action guide include: Mental health stigma, supporting peers' mental health, substance abuse prevention, period poverty anxiety, LGBTQ+ youth mental health, sexual abuse and violence prevention, equity in mental health, telehealth options, and affordability of mental health. Download the [Action Guide here](#).



Teen Mental Health Collaborative Holds Quarterly Meeting at the JCC

On May 31, the [Teen Mental Health Collaborative](#) held its quarterly meeting at the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh, providing an opportunity for community-based organizations to network and prioritizes opportunities for staff skills development in mental health and wellness to improve teen mental health and wellness.

Twenty-one individuals from 11 youth-serving organizations participated.

During the meeting Rabbi Ron Symons, senior director of Jewish life at the Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement at the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh provided an overview of the center's mission and the 21 Days of Kindness Campaign. Dr. Maria Carson, director of Jewish Education and Arts at the JCC, also provided a presentation about its Second Floor Wellness Room and teen programming.

A discussion was held among participants about promoting ownership and responsibility for maintaining safe teen spaces; strategies used by organizations represented at the meeting to prevent and respond to substance use among teens accessing their spaces and programs; and space for discussion and to share organizational highlights and summer and fall plans.

Following lunch, Emery Malachowski, outreach coordinator at [10.27 Healing Partnership](#) provided a program overview and philosophy of the organization which was established to help those directly and indirectly affected by the October 27, 2018 synagogue mass shooting. The organization offers resources for all those seeking help and healing from trauma. This discussion was followed by facilitation of a drum circle with Stephanie Miller, certified music practitioner from Music for Life of Pittsburgh, LLC. Stephanie has been hosting drop-in drum circles once a month in collaboration with the 10.27 Healing Partnership. Collaborative members experienced how this art form can be used for healing and building community through music.

The Collaborative also offered "The Kaleidoscope of Grief: Loss in Many Forms," a virtual grief and loss training workshop to its members earlier in May. The workshop expanded the view of grief to include death loss as well as the more ambiguous non-death losses that sometimes go unnoticed as sources of grief. The workshop, facilitated by The Highmark Caring Place, provided participants with a greater understanding of the ways that children experience grief throughout their development, the principles of grief-informed practice, and tools to support children on their grief journey.



L-R: Sara Nevels (Gwen's Girls), Alliyah Kimbrough (UpStreet), Justin Forzano (Open Field), Sophia Duck (The Mentoring Partnership), Carol Frazer (JHF), Stephanie Miller (Music for Life of Pittsburgh; drum circle facilitator), and Meg Booth (ARYSE).

Sarah Pesi Completes Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program

Sarah Pesi, MSPPM, a Jewish Healthcare Foundation policy associate, has completed the 2022-2023 [Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program](#), a policy leadership program for education, community, and advocacy leaders.

During the program, fellows work with a diverse and talented cohort of peers from across Pennsylvania, while interacting with session leaders and guests who represent a broad scope of experience and perspective – both statewide and nationally. The fellowship included trips to meet with state policymakers, a trip to Washington, DC, and a final presentation of policy projects.



Sarah Pesi, MSPPM poses with the certificate recognizing her completion of the Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program.

Pesi was involved in the Fellowship from September 2022 through the beginning of June. Her culminating policy project was called Universal School Mental Health Screening Pilot Program modeled after the Dyslexia Screening and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program. The pilot program would fund and provide schools with necessary support, technical assistance, and funding to implement and plan mental health screenings. It would also provide universal mental health interventions and education.

She was chosen as the Fellowship's graduation speaker. Pesi talked about the importance of policy discussions that should not only consider the problem and how to solve it but the implications for implementation, how you will achieve an expected outcome, and who are you asking to implement the policy and what they will need.

"I had a great experience in the Education Policy Fellowship," said Sarah Pesi. "I got to work with educators from across the Commonwealth to learn more about education policy system and to apply learnings about school mental health. I am excited for the next steps of applying what I am learning to implement change."

JHF Staff and Patient Safety Fellow Attend AELPS Patient Safety Summer Camp

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Program Associate Ashlee Carter, MS and Lean Healthcare Strategy and Implementation Manager Jennifer Condel, SCT(ASCP)MT participated in a week-long [Academy for Emerging Leaders in Patient Safety](#) (AELPS) summer camp hosted by MedStar Health from June 5-8 in Breckenridge, Colorado.

The four-day immersive workshops convened resident physicians, medical, nursing, and pharmacy students focusing on patient safety concepts and applying quality and safety improvement strategies and tools. The applicants were selected based on demonstrated passion and interest in patient safety, history of leadership, and commitment to ongoing education and scholarship in patient safety. The Academy for Emerging Leaders in Patient Safety is driven by the MedStar Health Institute for Quality and Safety and supported by its faculty and leaders.

There were 22 in attendance at the summer camp, including Jennifer Callear, a prior Patient Safety Fellowship participant who was sponsored by JHF to attend. Jessica Clark is being sponsored by JHF to attend the Maryland cohort of the summer camp to be held July 18-22.

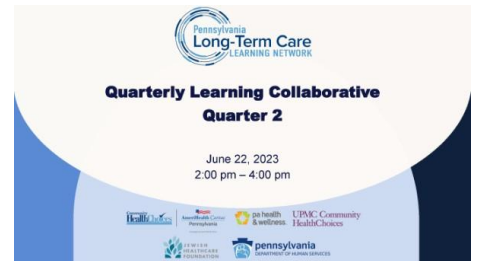
The program leaders in Breckenridge were David Mayer, MD, AELPS Founder and Executive Director, MedStar Health Institute for Quality and Safety and Carole Hemmelgarn, MS, MS, AELPS Leader and Senior Director, Education, MedStar Health Institute for Quality and Safety. Led by nationally and internationally recognized patient safety leaders and advocates, learners obtain real-world knowledge and skills to implement and disseminate with colleagues in their organizations on concepts including high reliability principles and implementation strategies, system error and human factors engineering, quality improvement tools and techniques, leadership, communication, reflective practice, mindfulness, and teamwork. The training also included presentations and discussions with patient advocate families affected by medical errors, enabling attendees to ask difficult questions in a safe environment.



L-R: David Mayer, Helen Haskell, Jennifer Condel, Ashlee Carter, Gwen Sherwood, and Heather Daugherty.

Nursing Facility Transitions of Care Take Center Stage at Quality Learning Collaborative

Transitions of care, whether between hospitals and skilled nursing facilities or between nursing facilities and the community, can present challenges and lead to disruptions in care. The second quarter of programming for the Pennsylvania Long-Term Learning Network for Nursing Facilities focused on strategies for addressing some of these challenges. The quarterly Learning Collaborative webinar, on June 22, provided an opportunity for nursing facilities from across the Commonwealth to come together to hear best practices for improving transitions of care. Nearly 200 participants joined the webinar, which addressed all six of the 2023 nursing facility quality incentive program goals as outlined by the Department of Human Services.



Larry Appel, MD, SFHM, medical director at the Department of Human Services Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL), provided an update on work being done at the state level, including a nursing facility listening tour conducted by OLTL's new deputy secretary, Juliet Marsala, MS, MBA, CRC. Dr. Appel expressed excitement for the growth of the Long-Term Care Learning Network and the quality of the programming. As noted in the results of the first quarter survey, satisfaction with the Learning Network webinars remained extremely high, with an increase in the number of facilities initiating quality improvement projects based on content from the webinars.

Four nursing facilities presented best practices around transitions of care. Amie Hull, DNP, CRNP, supervisor of advance practice providers at UPMC Senior Communities, shared about her facility's POLST policy, including the POLST review process and staff education and training initiatives. She stressed the importance of continuous quality improvement to ensure meaningful POLST conversations with the appropriate individuals. In an engaging panel discussion moderated by Tiffany Bloom, BSW, senior program manager at UPMC Community HealthChoices, Susan Stemmerich, service coordinator at UPMC Community HealthChoices, and Sue Ann Priemer, director of social services at QLS Markleysburg, discussed strategies they use to foster a positive working relationship between the nursing facility service coordinators and nursing facility staff, which ultimately enhances the care provided to residents.

Rollin Wright, MD, MS, MPH, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at Penn State Health, shared about the innovative Bridge to Home program, which helps to address challenges with transitions to home from post-acute care for patients who need more assistance than can be provided by family caregivers. The program benefits both patients and nursing facilities by improving transitions and reducing costs.

The benefits of implementing palliative care for those experiencing serious illness are well known, but the use of palliative care in nursing facilities remains limited. Richard Hoffmaster, MD, director of palliative medicine at UPMC St. Margaret's and medical director at Presbyterian SeniorCare – Longwood at Oakmont, described models of palliative care in the nursing facility and the need to focus on what the nursing home can provide for residents to help to reduce the need for transfers

to the hospital. He stressed the importance of working with the interprofessional team and having a champion at your facility.

Nancy Zions described the evolution of the Revisiting Teaching Nursing Home pilot into a [new phase](#) with the Teaching Nursing Home Collaborative. The pilot established a foundation for relationships between schools of nursing and nursing homes, with codesign as an embedded philosophy and demonstrated the value of bidirectional sharing of information. The next phase of the initiative aims to capitalize on the successes of the pilot and expand to involve more partners, and Zions invited all nursing facilities from across the state to join the effort.

The webinar concluded with association updates. Clinical nurse consultant Brian Stever, BSN, RN, RAC-CT, vice president of the board for the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators, presented on updates to the Minimum Data Set and the implications for long-term care facilities. Sophie Campbell, MSN, RN, CRRN, RAC-CT, CNDLTC, Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration (PADONA) executive director of programs and services, discussed updates on regulations affecting nursing facilities, which are effective July 1, 2023. This includes staffing ratio requirements and per patient day staffing levels. She shared about upcoming educational offerings from PADONA and legal considerations for nursing facilities in the wake of the Supreme Court's upholding of the right of residents and their survivors to sue publicly held nursing homes in federal court over key care provisions. She also shared that PADONA board chair Candace McMullen spoke to the general assembly on the current situation in long-term care and urged them to take action to address the workforce challenges.

The third quarter of programming kicks off on July 6 and will focus on a series of sessions aimed at enhancing skills to manage complex conditions.

CQEL Meeting Focuses on Palliative Care Policy Efforts at the State Level

[Research](#) has shown that palliative care can benefit both patients and providers by better managing patients' symptoms and improving quality of life, reducing costs, reducing hospitalizations, and increasing hospice utilization at the end of life. Access to palliative care benefits, however, has been uneven, and dual-eligible patients who may benefit most from palliative care services often lack access. A number of states, though, are implementing distinct palliative care coverage for patients covered under Medicaid programs, with California leading the way. On June 28, the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL) convened virtually to learn from Jennifer Moore Ballentine, MA, chief executive officer of the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, and Torrie Fields, MPH, managing partner for TF Analytics, about how California designed its Medi-Cal palliative care program and the lessons other states have taken from the experience.



Moderator Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA (right) moderates a Q&A with Torrie Fields, MPH (upper left) and Jennifer Moore Ballentine, MA.

Ballentine presented an overview of the Medi-Cal palliative care program and how it is working since it was made law in 2018. Among the lessons learned are that legislation is only the beginning; implementation requires sustained support, trusted partners/conveners, and engagement. Provider education is essential, for both those referring for services and those delivering palliative care, and energy and resources must be invested in identifying and enrolling eligible members. Fields discussed the process of establishing a palliative care service benefit at the state level, including the potential policy routes that can be taken (e.g., waivers, legislation, state plan amendment, integration into existing programs). She highlighted the lessons from California's experience that are helping to ease the process for other states following in their footsteps.

Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA, vice president and executive medical director of Enterprise Palliative Care Strategy and Implementation at Highmark Health and Jewish Healthcare Foundation board member, moderated a question-and-answer session, in which panelists shared about the challenges of ensuring that palliative care expertise is available when access is mandated, the importance of establishing a palliative care task force early in the process, the need for a formal connection between academic-provider partnerships to ensure availability of a skilled workforce, and the value of identifying a champion who recognizes the benefits.

As a next step, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation end-of-life team will be convening a subcommittee of CQEL members to investigate whether and how a model for palliative care coverage and payment could work in Pennsylvania.

Proposals Sought for Maternal Health Innovation Grants Ranging Between \$15,000-\$100,000

Maternal mortality remains a serious issue in Pennsylvania and across the U.S. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. experienced a maternal mortality rate of 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021, the highest of any developed country. Rates of maternal mortality continue to rise, particularly among non-Hispanic black populations.



The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is operating as the fiscal agent for federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to address maternal health needs. A total of \$4.5 million is available for short-term, maternal care innovation projects that will positively impact maternal health in Pennsylvania. Applications are currently being accepted.

Maternal care innovation grants may range from infrastructure, information technology, staff, services, materials, etc., as long as applications demonstrate how the grant will benefit pregnant individuals and/or new families. Applications are being sought from organizations ranging in size

and experience that are uniquely suited to positively impact maternal health outcomes in Pennsylvania, particularly programs and services that address systemic challenges affecting maternal health.

Interested organizations are encouraged to review the Request for Proposals (RFP) to learn more about eligibility and how to apply at www.jhf.org/MaternalCare.

Awards are intended to be awarded to projects between \$15,000 - \$100,000 per year for up to two years. A review committee has been convened to make all funding decisions, comprised of subject matter experts from across Pennsylvania; a diverse mixture of maternal health experts, representatives for all regions of Pennsylvania, as well those with grant making experience. Proposals are currently being accepted and will be awarded on a rolling basis until April 30th, 2024 or until funding has been fully expended.

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Recognized as a SAGECare Platinum Credentialed Provider

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has been recognized as 2023 SAGECare Platinum Credentialed provider or programming to LGBTQ+ older adults. The Aging and HIV/AIDS staff have completed training that provided an overview of the needs, concerns, and unique history of LGBTQ+ older adults, as well as meaningful steps that staff can take to immediately improve the quality of support and services they provide.



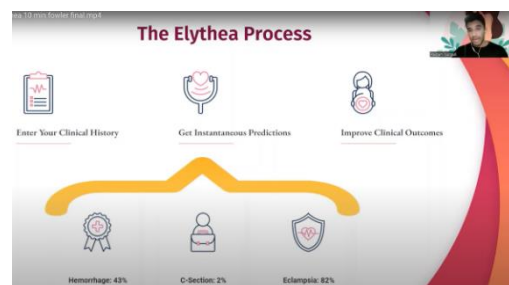
SAGECare is a division of SAGE, the country's oldest and largest non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older adults by providing LGBTQ+ competency training and consulting on LGBTQ+ aging issues to service providers.

Through this credentialing, JHF has demonstrated its organizational commitment to serving all older adults in the community.

New Patient Safety Technology Challenge Winners Announced in June

New patient safety winners were announced in June at the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge (GSIC) and the Healthcare Innovation Program at East Carolina University (ECU).

On June 17, GSIC awarded two Patient Safety Technology Challenge prizes for best tech-enabled solutions. Hosted by University of San Diego and University of St. Thomas, GSIC challenged student entrepreneurs around the world to connect and create sustainable business solutions to



First place prize winner Elythea shares their pitch at the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge.

global issues through the lens of UN Sustainable Development Goal #3, Good Health and Well-Being.

The first prize winner Elythea pitched a machine-learning platform to predict pregnancy complications. OnPoint Ventilation, the second prize winner, presented their device Bronchosleve which improved lung ventilation by improving ease of insertion and reducing life-threatening complications.

The Healthcare Innovation Pitch Program at East Carolina University partnered with the Office of Licensing & Commercialization for the Patient Safety Technology Challenge, with its business pitch program and competition ending June 22. Participants included ECU clinicians, faculty, students, and staff. Following the National Science Foundation I-Corps model, teams participated in four virtual training sessions that covered customer discovery, problem/solution alignment, business development, and funding. Each virtual training session featured a keynote speaker related to the session's topic and patient safety.

The winning team was Team AERO – Brittany Trotter, I-Corps Ambassador, PhD Candidate in Bioenergetics and Exercise Science, and Dr. Stephanie George and Dr. Jason Yao from the Department of Engineering. They developed a device to detect the risk of pressure injury in patients.

The four other winning ideas included a device to detect the risk of pressure injury in patients, a virtual reality platform to reduce patient stress in clinical settings, discovery of a molecule to treat biofilm formation in cystic fibrosis, and development of a device to improve medication dispensing.

Learn more about past and upcoming Patient Safety Technology Challenge competitions [here](#).

Dr. Ken Ho Receives Kerry Stoner Award

Dr. Ken Ho, MD, MPH, a valued member of the JHF Board and an infectious disease specialist, recently received the 2023 Kerry Stoner Award, recognizing his outstanding achievements in HIV/AIDS advocacy.

Dr. Ho is the medical director of Project Silk and the Pitt Men's Study, Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study, who is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. His impactful journey includes the establishment of the Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Clinic at UPMC in 2013, followed by his current role as the medical director of the renowned Pitt Men's Study.

Actively engaged in the clinical trials unit at the University of Pittsburgh and as a dedicated educator at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, the award recognized Dr. Ho's unwavering commitment to public health



and his patients, as well as his tireless efforts to improve lives and combat the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The Kerry Stoner Award is presented annually to honor those who have shown commitment to Kerry Stoner's legacy and vision of advancing HIV/AIDS care and activism in Pittsburgh. Stoner, a tireless HIV/AIDS activist who died of complications from AIDS in 1993, was a friend of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and a founder and the first executive director of Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force.

Read more about Dr. Ho [here](#) and join us in honoring his dedication to improving lives and combating the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

JHF Welcomes New Behavioral Health Program Associate Jessica Segal

Jessica Segal, MSW joins the Jewish Healthcare Foundation as its Behavioral Health Program Associate. In this role, she supports JHF's multifaceted behavioral health programs, including the BH Fellows program, a statewide Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Quality Collaborative, and the Adolescent Behavioral Health Initiative. Ms. Segal is a licensed clinical social worker dedicated to supporting youth and adolescents experiencing mental health challenges and creating systems to best support their overall well-being. Prior to joining JHF, she worked for the Matilda H. Theiss Child Development Center of UPMC in a youth intensive outpatient program and most recently as a school social worker at the Environmental Charter School. Ms. Segal earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Bates College and went on to earn her master's degree in social work from Columbia University.



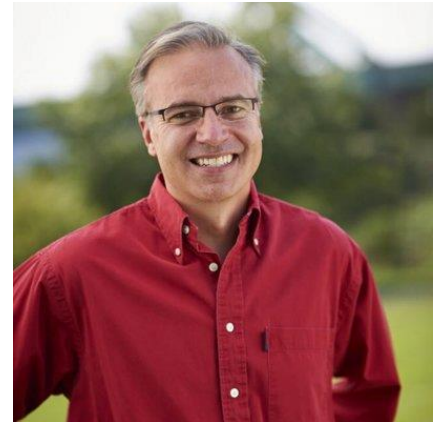
Now Hiring: PA PQC Quality Improvement Facilitator

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) seeks a Quality Improvement Facilitator to support its efforts to advance the goals of the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC). [Click here](#) to view the full job description and apply.



Rich Lunak Seeds Ideas, Putting Pittsburgh Center Stage as an Innovation Powerhouse

A native Pittsburgher, Rich Lunak remembers the economic low plaguing Pittsburgh as he was graduating from high school. This has always served as a personal motivator to keep Pittsburgh growing and making its mark as a competitor and leader in innovation.



Upon graduating from Carnegie Mellon University with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical and computer engineering and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh, he joined an automation division of Westinghouse Corporation in 1987. At the time, Westinghouse was second in annual U.S. patent awards only to Bell Labs, Lunak recalls. He started his career there as a development engineer in the late 1980s, as the company was growing its commitment to build businesses from new discoveries and research.

"That whet my appetite for entrepreneurship," said Lunak, adding that the experience also led him and a friend to strike out on their own in 1990 with Automated Healthcare, a company whose mission was to apply automation technology to the medication use process in healthcare settings.

Lunak remembers his family members thinking he had ruined his career when he left the security and prestige of Westinghouse to work in a three-person startup. Lunak helped to lead the high-tech start-up to positive cash-flow, profitability, and generation of recurring revenue within three years of operation before being acquired by McKesson Corporation in 1996.

"What I came to learn is job security is not defined by who you work for, but what kind of marketable skills you get in a small company and in a startup, even when they're not successful. You get exposed to so many things as a young professional, and it's such an accelerated growth and learning environment. It was a great experience. Not to mention, it can be the most fulfilling endeavor you will ever have in your life – to put out products, hopefully build a successful company, and establish a culture within it that you helped create on your own," Lunak said. "To a young entrepreneur, I would say this is your chance to seize an opportunity and put your own dent in the universe."

Following the acquisition, Lunak would go on to serve as chief executive for McKesson's Automation Group, a \$300M technology business unit with over 13,000 customers worldwide. The Automation Group consisted of five autonomous businesses that provided a wide range of products including a hospital-based robotics system, retail prescription fulfillment systems, clinical nursing systems, medical supply management tracking systems, and payor software systems. Lunak also worked with the company, applying his expertise in health care, patient safety, and technology realm, to help build other businesses for McKesson.

In the mid-2000s, Innovation Works was looking for a new CEO to help regional entrepreneurs build and scale high-growth businesses. Lunak took the position and would go on to spend almost two decades helping Pittsburgh's entrepreneurial community build high-growth businesses.

"I spent the last 17 years watching and helping our entrepreneurial community grow and thrive. It's been an incredibly gratifying experience – not only to work with entrepreneurs but to see the city where I was born and raised and that I love become a sought after place nationally for entrepreneurs and technologists," he said.

In addition to his work at Innovation Works, for the past 10 years, he has also served as the founder and managing director of Riverfront Ventures, an early-stage venture capital fund for which he successfully secured initial anchor investments to launch the fund in 2013. He remains one of four managing directors responsible for funding, selecting investments, and overseeing company portfolio performance.

In February 2022, Lunak announced his retirement as president and CEO of Innovation Works, the region's largest seed-stage investment group for startup companies. The decision came on the heels of a lengthy tenure leading the organization, which has invested more than \$113 million across 600 companies since its formation in 1999.

As one of the nation's most active seed-stage investors, Innovation Works has helped develop 20,000 jobs in the Pittsburgh region's tech startups, draw the spotlight to emerging tech sectors, and create a climate of innovation in the region. During his time in leadership, Lunak was responsible for all investments and accelerator and business assistance programs for its technology start-up entrepreneurs.

"It's critically important for entrepreneurs to solve problems that customers care about. An early mentor said to me 'you either have to be half-the-price or three-times-as-good in order to succeed,' and I think that there's some truth to that," Lunak said. "It's incredibly important for entrepreneurs to do a lot of customer discovery early on and really find that right product-market fit to make sure that you know the issues, problems and struggles your customers face and offer a solution that helps them succeed."

In response to the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's new Regional Autonomous Patient Safety (RAPS) initiative, Lunak said Pittsburgh has an excellent opportunity to use its strengths in automation, robotics, healthcare, data science and big data to fix broken areas in the healthcare system.

"I know patient safety is a key focus of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and many of our institutions in today's healthcare systems. Medical errors are the result of system errors, not people errors. Today's healthcare system, unfortunately, creates an environment where good well-intentioned people can still make errors. And so, when you look at how we solve those kinds of problems long term, you need strengths and not only in health care but research, AI, automation, robotics, data science...and Pittsburgh's got such incredible strengths in all those areas. We're world renowned."

Of his pending retirement, Lunak said, "I've spent years being an entrepreneur, founder CEO and you know, while I have taken away so much from that, I also feel like I've sacrificed family and friends in the process. I'm really trying to spend more time with family and friends now and in retirement or semi-retirement."

Lunak said he is still involved with some companies either as a board member or in an advisory role adding, "If I can leverage some of my experience over the years to help somebody in some way, I get a lot of pleasure out of that."