



January 2024 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

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Global Leaders Convene for Salzburg Seminar to Address Women's Health Inequities as They Age

Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) convened a Salzburg Seminar "Women as They Age: Addressing the Next Inequity Frontier" January 16-19 at Rancho Bernardo Inn in San Diego, California to initiate an enduring and committed network of leaders to work together on the issues surrounding women's health inequities as they age.

Forty-five participants from across the globe with expertise in health care, public health, social welfare, public and private insurance, employers and workforce, federal and local government, academia, research, communications, technology innovation, advocacy, international development and global health participated in the fully immersive program to connect, take inspiration from various global perspectives, and develop relationships to coalition build, while engaging in candid, safe, and open exchanges with peers working on the issue of women's health as they age.



Forty-five leaders from 10 countries convened at the Salzburg Seminar to create an action plan to address the inequities women face as they age.

The Salzburg Seminar included: Small "fishbowl conversations" on women's participation in decision making, gender-based violence, and health promotion and well-being; problem-solving labs on caregiving, diversity, equity, and inclusion, shifting the narrative about women's aging and role in society, and ensuring healthcare curriculums keep pace with the latest evidence in women's health.

During the seminar, a fireside chat was held with JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, bestselling author and regular NBC Today show commentator Judith Reichman, MD of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and The Conrad Prebys Foundation CEO Grant Oliphant, formerly of The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments. The discussion centered on how to get the media engaged in the topic and what those messages look like.

The leaders present represented the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, South Korea, Germany, Serbia, Chile, Switzerland, and Singapore.

"These experts from a range of countries from around the world answered the call to this seminar without a lot of explanation because it isn't needed. When you say it, they get it. We have major issues that need to change in terms of training about women's health, the roles women play in society, the structures in society that aren't set up to accommodate older women," said JHF Chief Operating Officer and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA.

“This seminar is oriented toward action. We left with an action platform and the enthusiasm of gathering with people who are as passionate as we are,” Feinstein said.



Karen Feinstein addresses members of the Salzburg Seminar in a small group.

Participants in the seminar included: Heather Altman, executive director, Health Sciences Health Innovations Group and the North Carolina Serious Illness Coalition; Ramsey Alwin, president and CEO, The National Council on Aging, USA; Bettina Borisch, professor and executive director, World Federation of Public Health Associations, Geneva, Switzerland; *Jamil Camacho, Professor of Surgery and Breast Pathology, Universidad Del Desarrollo, Clinica Alemana, Chile; *Debra Caplan, MPA, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Board Chair of WHAMglobal; Janet Catov, associate professor Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Epidemiology, Clinical and Translational Sciences,

University of Pittsburgh; Debbie Chang, president and CEO, Blue Shield of California Foundation; Leesa Chesser, non-executive director, Neami National and Australian Physiotherapy Association, Australia; Moon Choi, associate professor, KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy, South Korea; Marie-Therese Connolly, author, researcher and consultant, Elder Justice Lab, University of Southern California; Cindy Cox-Roman, president and CEO, HelpAge; Lorena Dini, senior health systems researcher and designer, Charité – Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany; Karen Donelan, Professor of US Health Policy, Brandeis; Julie Dubick, Chief of Staff & Strategic Partnership Advisor, Conrad Presbys Foundation; Vijeth Iyengar, director of global aging, AARP; Hyobum Jang, medical officer, Ageing and Health Unit, WHO, Switzerland; Christopher Langston, president and CEO, Archstone Foundation; *Amanda Lenhard, vice president, clinical care coordination & hospital medicine, UPMC and associate professor of medicine, University of Pittsburgh; *Wendy Leonard, executive director, TIP Global Health; *Della Lin, senior fellow, Patient Safety Leadership, Estes Park Institute; *Sue Matthews, chief executive officer, The Royal Women’s Hospital, Australia; *Kathryn McDonald, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Health Systems, Quality and Safety, Johns Hopkins University; Jelena Milic, scientific consultant, Institute of Public Health, Serbia; *Judy Monroe, president and CEO, CDC Foundation; *Julie Morath, president and CEO, Hospital Quality Institute; *Beverly Morrow, chair, Arkansas Community Foundation and Arkansas Children’s Hospital; *Anne Newman, director, Center for Aging and Population Health; Paul Ong, president and CEO, Blue Shield of California Foundation; Laura Rath, vice president of programs, Archstone Foundation; *Judith Reichman, bestselling author, speaker, tv correspondent and gynecologist, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; *Fleur Sack, family physician, Fluer S. Sack LLC; *Lisa Simpson, president and CEO, AcademyHealth; Diana Skeete, founder, Meno assess; Rani Snyder, vice president of programs, The John A. Hartford Foundation; *Terrence Starz, clinical professor of medicine, Division of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Cara Tannenbaum, scientific director, Institute of Gender and Health, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; Lina Walker, senior vice president, Global Thought Leadership, AARP; and Teresa Younger, president and CEO, Ms. Foundation for Women. The Seminar was the first in-person meeting of the WHAMglobal Board members, of which 12 were present (marked with a * by their name).

The seminar was sponsored by the Archstone Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation, Cambria Health Foundation, The Conrad Prebys Foundation, Elsie H. Hillman Foundation, The Heinz Family Foundation, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, The John A. Hartford Foundation, and WHAMglobal.

JHF Welcomes Seven New Board Trustees

JHF recently welcomed seven new Board Trustees. Each will serve a three-year term.

Deb Brodine, MHA, MBA is the President of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital and Western Behavioral Health, and President of UPMC Senior Services. Brodine has specific expertise in home and community-based services, senior care, and behavioral health and how these services intersect with, and are critical to, population health. Her role as President of UPMC Senior Services includes oversight of extensive skilled nursing and senior living programs, housing over 2500 seniors daily, as well as extensive home health and hospice services with a combined census of over 6,000. Prior to her appointment to WPH in May 2019, Brodine served as president of UPMC Community Provider Services for eleven years.



Top row (left to right): Deb Brodine, Dan Gilman, Stuart Hoffman, Bill Isler; bottom row (L to R): Sue Kirsch, Evan Rosenberg, and Louis Shapiro.

Dan Gilman currently serves as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to Duquesne University President Ken Gormley. Prior to his appointment at Duquesne, Gilman served as Chief of Staff to Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto and has served on Pittsburgh City Council representing the 8th District, which includes Oakland, Shadyside and Squirrel Hill. As a Councilman, he focused on creating a more accountable city government, embracing Pittsburgh's technological renaissance to improve City services, and making Pittsburgh a more family-friendly and progressive city. He was selected to join The New DEAL, a national network committed to highlighting pragmatic progressives with innovative ideas at the state and local level. He also served as the Chair of the National League of Cities (NLC) University Communities Council. An alumnus of Pittsburgh's Shady Side Academy, Gilman graduated with honors from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Ethics, History, and Public Policy.

Stuart Hoffman, PhD is senior economic advisor for The PNC Financial Services Group. In this role, Hoffman works with PNC clients to provide expert analysis and forecasts for national, regional, and global economic and financial trends. Prior to being named to this role in April 2017, he served as PNC's chief economist and was principal spokesperson on all economic issues. Hoffman joined PNC in 1980 after a six-year tenure with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He became vice president and senior economist for PNC in 1987 and was elected senior vice president and chief economist in 1991. Hoffman is past president and lifetime member of the

American Bankers Economic Advisory Committee, which meets regularly with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors chaired by Jay Powell. He was previously a member of the JHF Board and served as Chair of the Investment Committee for many years. He also serves on the board of directors of The Economic Club of Pittsburgh, the local chapter of National Association for Business Economics (NABE), and VisitPITTSBURGH. Hoffman is also a member of the University of Cincinnati Foundation board of trustees.

Bill Isler is the former Executive Director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media and the president of Family Communications, Inc. Prior to joining Family Communications, Inc. in 1984, Isler served for eight years in the Pennsylvania Department of Education as Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Education, Commissioner of Basic Education and Senior Program Advisor for Early Childhood Education. An active member of the community, Isler is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Fred Rogers Company, and serves on the Boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Health Careers Futures and the JHF Board Communications Committee; he was also previously a member of the JHF Board. Isler has been an elementary school teacher, day-care teacher, and administrator of a multi-service program for children. He completed his undergraduate degree at Saint Vincent College and graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

Sue Kirsch, CPA, JD is a tax shareholder and practice unit leader at Schneider Downs & Company. She has more than 30 years of public accounting and industry expertise in tax matters affecting not-for-profit organizations and higher education institutions. Her clients include colleges, universities, secondary educational organizations, arts and cultural organizations, religious organizations, business and professional associations and private foundations. Her experience includes representing clients in connection with audit representation, obtaining recognition of tax-exempt status, foreign information reporting, governance and operating issues, technical advice on matters such as public charity/private foundation qualification, intermediate sanctions, lobbying, political activities, unrelated business income, and executive compensation and fringe benefits. She is also a frequent speaker on the taxation of exempt organizations. Kirsch is currently President of the International Women's Pittsburgh Forum, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair of the Board for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and is a member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the American and Pennsylvania Institutes of Certified Public Accountants; she also serves on the AICPA Exempt Organization Technical Resource Panel.

Evan Rosenberg joined the Pittsburgh Business Times in July of 2017 as Market President and Publisher. The PBT is the region's leading source for business news and information. Prior to accepting his position, Rosenberg spent 18 + years with the CBS owned and operated television stations, KDKA-TV and WPCW. Previously he held several positions for Network International, a division of SMG (now ASM Global), which operates public assembly facilities including at the time Three Rivers Stadium and the Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh. Upon graduating from college, Rosenberg worked for the Pittsburgh Pirates in Public Relations. Rosenberg currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and Leadership Pittsburgh, as well as the President's advisory committee at Carlow University. He's also a graduate of Leadership

Pittsburgh's, LDI class XII. A native of Pittsburgh's neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, Rosenberg is a graduate of Taylor Alderdice High School and Temple University.

Louis Shapiro, MHA is a growth catalyst who, as Chief Executive Officer for 17 years, has transformed Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) from a boutique New York provider into a global leader that advances musculoskeletal health through world-class patient care, research, innovation, and education. During his tenure as CEO, Shapiro has led all strategic and operational aspects of the hospital, which now has 20+ locations in four states and treats nearly 200K patients annually from all 50 states and 80+ countries. Under Shapiro's stewardship, HSS received widespread recognition, including being ranked #1 in the nation and world by U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek respectively. The hospital serves as the independent academic arm of the Weill Cornell College of Medicine in Orthopedics and Rheumatology, and it also maintains academic and commercial relationships in South America, Europe, and Asia. Shapiro's expertise spans a wide range—from strategic innovation and service line development to technology integration, employee engagement and patient experience. Prior to joining HSS in 2006, Shapiro held executive roles at healthcare organizations in his home state of Pennsylvania. He spent over four years at Geisinger Health System, ultimately advancing to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Clinical Enterprise. Shapiro also worked as a healthcare consultant at McKinsey & Co. Throughout his career, Shapiro has served on numerous boards.

10th Annual Death and Dying Fellowship Kicks Off

Since 2015, JHF's Death and Dying Fellowship has been preparing students in the art of working and talking with patients and families facing the end of life. The healthcare landscape has experienced numerous changes over the past decade, but one issue remains unresolved: healthcare professionals are ill-prepared to have quality conversations around the end of life with patients and their loved ones. The Fellowship aims to fill that educational void.

On January 22, 25 fellows convened at the JHF offices to kick off the 10th annual Death and Dying Fellowship. The cohort represents seven universities and a broad range of disciplines, including ethics, pharmacy, nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physician assistant, social work, counseling, birthing support, healthcare administration, gerontology, and public policy.

The session commenced with remarks from Dr. Feinstein who shared about the Foundation's longstanding commitment to its key focus areas, and particularly issues around aging and the end of life. She applauded fellows for tackling the often-challenging work of death and dying and encouraged them to approach their work with an activist mindset to be the best possible advocate for the patients and families they serve.



Karen Feinstein lauds the fellowship cohort for their work to improve end of life conversations.

Zionts described the Closure model, which forms the foundation of JHF's end-of-life work and gave fellows the opportunity to reflect on their vision of a "good death" and explore reasons why that's not always achieved. JHF Medical Advisor Judith Black, MD, MHA, led participants through the history and current state of end-of-life care in America, highlighting progress made as well as the work still needed to ensure that what matters to individuals at the end of life is respected.

Over nine sessions this winter, fellows will have the opportunity to engage with healthcare and community leaders from a variety of settings and backgrounds through a combination of virtual and in-person sessions and site visits. The goal is to present the often-challenging topics of communicating around serious illness and the end of life in an open, collaborative, and low-pressure environment. The Fellowship will culminate with an opportunity for participants to practice end-of-life conversations in small groups using role-play scenarios, with expert facilitators on hand to provide guidance and feedback. The JHF Death and Dying Fellowship staff team is supplemented by more than two dozen experts from across Pennsylvania who bring their perspectives from their disciplines, healthcare settings, and personal lived experiences to enlighten and inform the next generation of professionals.

Up Next for Patient Safety Podcast Features Robert Pearl

How will today's technological advances empower patients in their health care and ease the strains on providers? What are the key actions that will make care safer, more accessible, and more affordable?

Join host Dr. Feinstein and guest Dr. Robert Pearl, a leading medical voice and premiere visionary, as they share reasons for optimism about the future of the healthcare industry.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Maternal Health Organizations Issue Collective Plan to Save Lives in Pennsylvania

For Pennsylvania Maternal Health Awareness Day, JHF contributed to a statewide collective plan to raise awareness of recommendations to improve maternal health and reduce racial/ethnic disparities in Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, pregnancy-associated mortality rates are two times greater for non-Hispanic Blacks than non-Hispanic whites. The plan includes recommendations that the State Administration could achieve in a 12-month period. It also describes how stakeholders can support the priorities.



In November 2023, over 25 maternal health organizations and groups across Pennsylvania worked together to develop a prioritized list of recommendations for private and public stakeholders to advance in 2024. Over the past two months, these organizations met several times and completed surveys to understand and uplift each other's existing work and maternal health policy ideas. The Collective Plan is uplifting the following existing recommendations from members of the group:

- Establish a Perinatal Behavioral Health Access Program to provide consultation and expertise to providers on how to identify and care for women and other birthing people with mental health or substance use-related needs,
- Reimburse Doulas who provide emotional, physical, and informational support to women and other birthing people,
- Reimburse Community Health Workers who serve the communities in which they reside or communities with which they may share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, or life experiences to improve health outcomes in the community,
- Build a diverse, culturally appropriate perinatal health workforce,
- Increase enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) that provides nutrition services, breastfeeding support, health care and social service referrals, and healthy foods, and
- Support educational campaigns with trusted community partners about maternal health and the available services and supports in the community.

The [Collective Plan](#) is building on past and recent achievements in Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee, the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative, home visiting requirements and a value-based payment model for maternity care in the Medicaid managed care program, surveillance of severe maternal morbidity, a Maternal and Child Health Fund initiative, increases in WIC enrollment, and new policies for Doulas and Community Health Workers.

“During my career of over 20 years as a perinatal and neonatal nurse, I have seen a great need for help in addressing perinatal mental health, improving connections to community organizations, and building a diverse perinatal workforce,” said Kristen Brenneman, MSN, quality improvement facilitator at JHF. “The statewide collective plan and the recommendations to improve maternal health and reduce racial and ethnic disparities will help address these gaps and build upon the work of the organizations within our communities. I am excited to witness the impact the plan will have to help improve outcomes in maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.”

Karen Feinstein Named to Pittsburgh Business Times “Power 100 List”

Dr. Feinstein was recognized among the most influential leaders in the region on the [Pittsburgh Business Times Power 100](#). The influencers on the list are connectors, people who build bridges, and people you call to make things happen.



Nancy Zionts Named to Pittsburgh Business Times “20 People to Know in Health Care” List

Zionts was named one of the [“20 People to Know in Health Care”](#) by the Pittsburgh Business Times. The list is an effort to connect the Pittsburgh business community with influential people working in health care.



Updated Logos for Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, Health Careers Futures, and WHAMglobal Emphasize Interconnections

To begin the new year, the JHF, Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI), Health Careers Futures (HCF), and WHAMglobal – introduced new logos to emphasize their connection with one another. The four entities function as an aligned family in the work to advance healthcare innovation, advocacy, collaboration, and education in the interest of better population health.



Grant to Youth-Led Nonprofit Provides Mental Health Care Packages to Pennsylvania Organizations

On Wednesday, January 24, youth advocate, Sophie Fontecchio, visited Western Pennsylvania to spread her teen mental health advocacy efforts.

In 2021, Sophie founded [Let's Bake the World a Better Place](#) – an organization that “engages local youth in support of a wide range of non-profit organizations through baking and mental health advocacy.” One initiative of Let's Bake the World a Better Place is the creation of Mental Health Care Packages that are made “by youth for youth” and distributed in schools and mental health agencies for teens to pick up when they need some support.



Sophie Fontecchio discusses her nonprofit with youth at The Beacon.

Each kit includes materials to create 25 care packages. Each package contains a letter of encouragement written by another youth, a mini journal, a fidget toy, mental health stickers, and assorted candy – all of which were thoughtfully selected to help recipients feel accepted and provide hope and healing. To date, Let's Bake the World a Better Place has raised and donated \$17,000 to 25 organizations through bake sales and has distributed to over 5,000 Teen Mental Health Care Packages across the Commonwealth.

Sophie was first introduced to the [PA Youth Advocacy Network](#) as a guest speaker during the [Harrisburg Advocacy Day](#) in November 2023. She shared her advocacy work with youth from across the state and inspired them to take action in their own communities.

Through a \$1,250 grant from JHF, Fontecchio is providing Mental Health Care Package kits to 20 schools and youth organizations who participated in its recent trip to Harrisburg to advocate for [student mental health days legislation](#).

Following her presentation, Beaver County Youth Ambassador Program invited her to speak at their January event where she continued to spread her message to 375 students in Beaver County and provided each school with Mental Health Care Packages to create and have in their schools. She concluded her day sharing the kits with organizations in the PA Youth Advocacy Network during an event at The Beacon – combining card writing and baked goods from Bunny Bakes.

For more information about Sophie's work, visit: <https://www.letsbaketheworldabetterplace.com/>.

Health Systems Come Together to Develop a Blueprint for Transforming Patient Safety

On January 24, Ariadne Labs announced the founding members of the JHF-funded Leadership and Innovation Network for the program entitled “Pathway to Accountability, Compassion, and Transparency” (PACT). PACT improves the way healthcare organizations respond to and learn from harm events. Its Leadership and Innovation Network provides a forum for healthcare system leaders to advance, sustain, and scale their patient safety communication and resolution programs.



The founding members of the PACT Leadership and Innovation Network include ChristianaCare, CommonSpirit, Dartmouth Health, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Hartford, HealthCare, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington, Mass General Brigham, MedStar Health, Providence St. Joseph Health, Seattle Children’s Hospital, and UMass Memorial Health.

JHF’s grant is supporting the development of the PACT Leadership and Innovation Network to develop a “Blueprint for Transforming Patient Safety.”

During the Network’s Biannual Meeting on January 24, Dr. Feinstein presented the rationale and vision for the Patient Safety Blueprint. The Blueprint will describe the problem of patient safety, the barriers, the precursors to injury/harm, and the autonomous solutions that could be scaled across healthcare systems to prevent injury/harm. The PACT Leadership and Innovation Network will be developing this Blueprint with input from multi-disciplinary safety experts, human-factors engineers, and innovators from other industries.

The patient safety blueprint will become a foundational framework for the proposed National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) that Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative is advancing with a national advocacy coalition. The NPSB’s research and development team would ultimately help to adopt solutions to prevent injury/harm, and the blueprint will be capturing these solutions to scale at the national level.

Three New Competitions Added to the Patient Safety Technology Challenge

Three new competitions have been added to the Patient Safety Technology Challenge for 2024. Funded by JHF and administered by PRHI, the Patient Safety Technology Challenge is designed to fuel the engagement of students and innovators in creating solutions and envisioning transformational approaches to reduce preventable harm from medical errors.

Purdue University will host its annual Design & Innovation Challenge in West Lafayette, Indiana. This year introduces the category, 'Patient Safety' which is open to all Purdue students and presents participants with



the challenge of addressing one of five patient safety issues prevalent in healthcare delivery, including medication errors, patient care, procedural and surgery errors, infections, and diagnostic error. Teams are tasked with developing a fully realized idea for a technology-enabled solution aimed at mitigating one of the five leading patient safety problems. The final presentation and winner announcement will be held on April 12th and April 26th, respectively. The registration deadline for Purdue students is April 7th, learn more [here](#).

The second new participating competition, Big Ideas: A Data-Driven Innovation Competition, is an annual competition hosted by the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and presented by the Healthcare Innovation Lab and the Institute for Informatics, Data Science and Biostatistics. In addition to the standard \$50,000 Big Ideas grant, one team will receive a \$10,000 award for the best tech-enabled patient safety solution. Letters of intent are due March 27, with the pitch event following on May 14th. The winners will be selected and notified on June 13th, learn more [here](#).

This year's Hacking Health hackathon, organized by Columbia Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), will take place at Columbia University on February 3-4, 2024. They are expecting 300 participants, from Columbia and other colleges in the area, who will create hacks in small teams with assistance from mentors and peers. The Patient Safety Technology Challenge sponsored the patient safety track and will award a \$2,000 prize to the "Best Patient Safety Hack." Learn more [here](#).

Learn more about these competitions, and other related patient safety competitions [here](#).

New Patient Safety Technology Challenge Winners Announced

The Patient Safety Technology Challenge announced the winners of three recent events.

The NursesKnow Patient Safety Technology Challenge announced Crimson Medical Solutions as the winner of the \$5,000 first prize on December 14. The NurseKnow Patient Safety Technology Challenge was hosted by SONSIEL (Society of Nurse Scientists, Innovations, Entrepreneurs & Leaders) with submissions from around the world from nurse innovators and entrepreneurs to address patient safety issues. The winning team, Crimson Medical Solutions, created IV Manager, an improved IV labelling system which can improve nurse workflows and reduce medication errors. Team members include Stephen Bone and Caleb Williams.



Proxie Health team members were presented with their award at CES by Patient Safety Technology advisory member Lance Bailey, far right.

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA) Foundation hosted its annual CTA Foundation Pitch Competition at CES 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 10, 2024. The Patient Safety Technology Challenge served as a sponsor and provided a prize of \$2,000 to Proxie Health Inc. for

the best tech-enabled patient safety solution. Proxie Health is a telecare platform that aims to give providers data they need and help families manage home care using human expertise and AI. Team members include Tatiana Carrett, Fritz Desir, and Eric Bruno.

The tenth anniversary of IDEA Hacks, the premier hardware-focused hackathon on the West Coast, was hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' Student Branch at UCLA, a professional student-run engineering organization. The event was held on January 12-14, 2024. LIFE-line was the winner of the patient safety track. LIFE-line is a device that detects falls and notifies either a registered family member or the local emergency services depending on the severity of the fall. It has an OLED display for text, intended for a speech-to-text implementation to help either overcome language barriers or communication disabilities. Team members include Junha Park, Camilla Rodrigues, Alexander Pak, and Lucas Ton.

Congratulations to the winning teams and thank you to the organizers of the events for including the issue of patient safety as an option for innovators and entrepreneurs to address with their solutions. Read about past competitions involved in the Patient Safety Technology Challenge [here](#).

McKnights Long-Term Care Highlights the Success of the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative

A recent article in McKnights Long-Term Care highlighted the success of the Teaching Nursing Home Collaborative, its use of University connections to showcase nursing homes as a desirable place to work, and its work to create a companion book and resources to expand the learning beyond Pennsylvania. [Read more.](#)



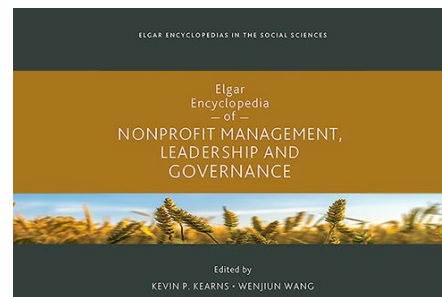
Nancy Zionts Discusses Teaching Nursing Home Project on Elevate Elder Care Podcast

Zionts was a guest on the *Elevate Elder Care* podcast to discuss "Revisiting – and Re-Energizing – Teaching Nursing Homes." Produced by The Center for Innovation and The Green House Project, the podcast is hosted by Susan Ryan and focuses on exploring the opportunities and challenges to actualizing a vision for dignified eldercare through the lens of the Green House and Pioneer models. On the episode, she shared the three-year outcomes of the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Project, its goals, impact on residents and resident care, and the program's potential to reverse the workforce crisis in long-term care. [Listen now.](#)



Karen Feinstein Contributes to Encyclopedia on Nonprofits

Dr. Feinstein was a contributor to the recently published [*Elgar Encyclopedia of Nonprofit Management, Leadership and Governance*](#), a reference guide compiled by Dr. Kevin Kearns and Dr. Wenjiun Wang for those interested in the rapidly growing nonprofit sector. Dr. Feinstein contributed chapters titled “Case for Support” and “Conversion Foundations,” to the publication.



Anneliese Perry Appointed as a VOICE PA Board Member

JHF Aging Initiatives Program Manager and Dementia Friends Pennsylvania Co-Lead Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, CECM was recently appointed as a board member of [*Voice of Inspired Change for Elders \(VOICE\)*](#), a nonprofit whose mission is to empower Pennsylvania elders and their care partners to make informed choices wherever they call home. Perry will serve a three-year term.



Join Us at the Safety Innovation Summit on February 29

The Pittsburgh Technology Council, PRHI, and JHF are hosting a one-day Safety Innovation Summit Thursday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rodef Shalom Congregation in Pittsburgh, examining safety interventions that have proven successful in multiple industries, while exploring newer safety solutions made possible by AI/ML, robotics, and other frontier technologies.

This event will convene leaders in industrial manufacturing, energy, transportation, and cyber with the technology and engineering expertise at Carnegie Mellon University, life sciences expertise at the University of Pittsburgh, R&D at other academic institutions, a vibrant start-up ecosystem, and our world-class health systems for a fact-finding and visioning session, presenting a novel opportunity to share learnings across industries, and explore opportunities for new ventures and collaborations. [Register now.](#)



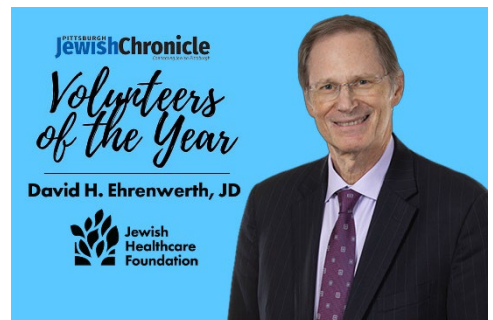
BH Fellows Recruiting Next Cohort of Frontline Behavioral Health Workers

The BH Fellows program is an educational loan repayment and training program for new and existing workers in the behavioral health system in Allegheny County. Accepted participants receive educational loan repayment (up to \$25,000 for a bachelor's degree or up to \$45,000 for a master's degree) or free access to an approved professional certificate program, paid time off for training and professional development as part of a cohort group, and assistance securing a meaningful job with a competitive salary. Applicants can [apply by February 15](#) to join the Spring 2024 Cohort.



David Ehrenwerth Recognized as JHF's 2023 Volunteer of the Year

David H. Ehrenwerth, JD has supported JHF since it was established in 1990. As a board member of Montefiore Hospital and one of its lawyers, he handled the sale of Montefiore to UPMC and the transfer of funds to establish JHF. Ehrenwerth then served as one of the original Trustees, Vice Chair and Chair, becoming ex-officio at the end of 2020. Ehrenwerth has supported the Foundation's work every step of the way, and we are grateful for his decades of service.



[Read more](#) about his recent recognition as one of the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle's 2023 Volunteers of the Year.

Susanne Gollin Brings Expertise and Passion to Her Work in the Lab, in the Community, and at JHF

A Professor of Human Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health and a Clinical Cytogenetics Consultant in the Pittsburgh Cytogenetics Laboratory from 1987 to 2019, Susanne Gollin, PhD, FFACMGG has built a multifaceted career as a researcher, teacher, mentor, inventor, and clinical cytogeneticist.

Dr. Gollin has been a member Board of Trustees at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) since 2019 and during that time has served as a member of the Distribution Committee. During her service at JHF, she was involved in the Full Court Press for Seniors, providing her insights and supportive review for grant initiatives, including the Teaching Nursing Home initiative. She has also offered her expertise as an advisory board member of J Genes Pgh, a JHF-funded project which provided community



education about Ashkenazi Jewish genetic disease to assure families have the information they need to make informed decisions about advancing their health and the health of future generations.

Both of Dr. Gollin's parents were physicians, and they inspired her to pursue science and live a life committed to helping others. Her father's battle with cancer inspired her future career and she went on to earn her BA, MS, and PhD in Biological Sciences, all from Northwestern University. Dr. Gollin credits her husband, Lazar M. Palnick, for enabling her academic successes by serving as a superbly supportive partner in building a healthy work/life balance. She retired and became Professor Emerita at Pitt in 2019 after 31 years of service to the University, including as a faculty member in the Department of Human Genetics at Pitt Public Health.

She has presented her research around the globe. Throughout her career, Dr. Gollin has focused on cytogenetic changes underlying diseases, including cancer, post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder, and other rare tumors and inherited disorders. Dr. Gollin has been awarded federal, state, and foundation grants for research projects concerning genetic alterations in oral and other cancers.

Dr. Gollin is a founding fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics & Genomics, and a founding fellow of both the International Academy of Oral Oncology and the Indian Association of Molecular Pathologists. She has published 135 first authored or co-authored biomedical science journal articles, four book chapters, seven encyclopedia contributions, and six other publications, and has served as an editorial board member and referee for several scientific journals. She is co-inventor on six issued U.S. patents. Her laboratory developed more than 50 human tumor cell lines, a selection of the head and neck cancer cell lines are listed by the University as intellectual property and have been distributed to academic researchers around the world.

Michael Becich, MD, PhD, associate vice chancellor for informatics in health sciences and chair of the University of Pittsburgh Department of Biomedical Informatics, has never forgotten meeting Dr. Gollin at Northwestern University in the laboratory of Dr. Robert C. King, a geneticist, and a pioneer in studies of *Drosophila* oogenesis (fruit flies). Dr. Becich fondly remembers Dr. Gollin working in the lab as a graduate student studying ovarian tumors while he was an undergrad microscopy apprentice. Of that experience, he remembers Susanne as an inspiring mentor, who was always available to be of help and talk science.

"She's probably inspired dozens, if not hundreds, of other scientists along her career path. One thing about good mentorship she taught me was that you've got to take time with the junior people at all stages of your career," Dr. Becich said. "Susanne has a many scientific achievements, but she was also someone who gave back to science, was passionate about it, and she was outspoken to a point where you had to hear her voice."

Dr. Gollin has served as a major advisor to six doctoral students; 14 master of science students; mentored 31 undergraduate students carrying out research in her laboratory; supervised the research of 10 postdoctoral fellows, four visiting professors, and three postgraduate researchers; and trained many UPMC pathology residents, hematopathology fellows, and genetics residents and fellows in clinical cancer cytogenetics.

Some of those former students whom she has impacted have visited her recently as she battles metastatic breast cancer, including Rahul A. Parikh, MD, PhD, associate professor of medical oncology, The University of Kansas Cancer Center, a former doctoral student who drove 13 hours to Pittsburgh with family from Kansas City over the holiday. She was also touched by a visit in December in which a special lunch was delivered by four of her former students: Christa Lese Martin, Ph.D., Gollin's first doctoral student, now scientific director of Geisinger Medical Center; Shalini Reshmi, PhD, who works in the genetics laboratory at Nationwide Children's Hospital at The Ohio State University; Camille Rose Ragin, PhD, former postdoctoral fellow, now associate director of diversity, equity, and inclusion at Fox Chase Cancer Center and professor in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program; Khadijah Mitchell, PhD, a post baccalaureate student in Gollin's laboratory, now assistant professor of cancer epidemiology at Fox Chase Center.

Not only touched by the lengths they traveled to visit her, Dr. Gollin was also touched by the kind words they shared, including Dr. Mitchell who said that Dr. Gollin was the first person who made her feel that she could earn a PhD and succeed in academic human genetics and cancer research.

In a career filled with seemingly endless achievements, beyond her Board service with JHF, Dr. Gollin has served on the Board of Trustees for the Women's Law Project, as a member and vice chair of the Allegheny County Board of Health, member of the Pennsylvania Cancer Prevention, Control, and Research Advisory Board, the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on study sections for the National Institutes of Health, and as a consultant to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where she was also a member of the Immunology Devices Panel, a Medical Devices Advisory Committee in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD and Chief Operating Officer and Nancy Zions fondly note that Dr. Gollin is always the first to arrive at Board meetings, whether in person or on Zoom, and always prepared with questions and guidance on what is on the agenda.

"There is much to learn from Susanne, and it's not only from her extraordinary talents in biology and genetics. Yes, she's a mentor to so many in her field, but also in two other passions: gardening and quilting," said Dr. Feinstein. "I take great pleasure in any advice she can provide and the beautiful things she creates in these avocations."

Feinstein Fellowships Alumni Spotlight: Selena Eisenberg

Selena Eisenberg is a traditional midwife, founder of [Igi Osè - Traditional Birth Services](#), and an alumna of the [Salk Health Activist Fellowship](#) and [Patient Safety Fellowship](#). Her mission is to support birthing people and to improve outcomes in home and hospital settings. Her journey to becoming a midwife was not straight forward one, but the result of studying birth in different capacities for over 16 years, providing her with a unique perspective in birthing spaces.



Selena is the current CEO of The Pittsburgh Birth Project, whose mission is to support birth choices by providing financial privilege to those who would otherwise have limited options for their birth. She is a recent participant in the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Perinatal Health Equity Champion program, a convening of community birth workers and hospital representatives to learn and join forces to improve the outcomes of Black birthing people in Allegheny County. Selena has also created a program to support hospital team members who wish to be more welcoming and accepting by teaching them how to leverage community birth attendants who serve their patients.

[Watch now.](#)

JHF Welcomes Aging Initiatives Program Specialist Deanna Page

Deanna Page, MS, LPC is a program specialist on the JHF's Aging Initiatives team. In her role, she will support Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania, Dementia Friends Pennsylvania, the PA Long-Term Care Learning Network, and related aging and policy efforts. Prior to joining the Foundation, Page served as a care coordinator for Presbyterian SeniorCare Network's Dementia360 program, where she worked directly with family caregivers of persons living with dementia to educate and support their efforts in providing quality care in the home setting and extending the length of time living at home for the person living with dementia. She has experience as a Care Coach with Familylinks, Inc. in the Caregivers First Initiative, which administered Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health II, a structured caregiver intervention based on individualized caregiver needs, to family caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias. Page also has experience in family-based mental health services with UPMC on the OCD and anxiety disorders team. Previously, she volunteered with the Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh initiative and was the co-chair of Dementia-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, a collaboration built to create awareness and engagement throughout the community about dementia and how we can support those living with dementia and their care partners. Page earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Allegheny College and her master's degree in counseling psychology from



Chatham University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and a Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Aaron Carroll Named President, CEO of Academy Health

The AcademyHealth Board of Directors [recently announced](#) its selection of nationally recognized thought leader, science communicator, pediatrician, and health services researcher Aaron Carroll, MD, MS as the next President and CEO of AcademyHealth.

He will assume the role from Lisa Simpson, a longtime friend and partner of JHF and WHAMglobal Board member, who will step down in March. Under her leadership, AcademyHealth made a public commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; expanded its influence in Washington, DC; and built robust portfolios of work to support innovation in data, workforce, research impact, and learning health systems.

“We commend our dear friend Lisa Simpson for her extraordinary leadership and look forward to the progress that will continue under the leadership of Dr. Carroll,” Dr. Feinstein said. [Read more](#) about Dr. Simpson in this story published by JHF.



Jill Beck Sworn In As Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

JHF congratulates Pittsburgh Attorney Jill Beck, the newly elected Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. The Honorable Jill Beck, a Squirrel Hill resident, active volunteer, and longtime community advocate, took office on January 1 and will hold the post for the next 10 years. Pictured from left to right at her swearing-in ceremony are: Dr. Feinstein, Beck, 10.27 Healing Partnership Executive Director Maggie Feinstein, and her daughter.

