



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

Contents

JHF Approves over \$1.9M in Grants, Including Funding for Patient Safety Innovation and to Support Inspiring Health Journalism.....	2
JHF Releases 2022 Year in Review.....	3
New National Patient Safety Board Video Promotes the Need to Make Health Care as Safe as Flying	4
Death and Dying Fellowship Kicks Off.....	4
PA Youth Advocacy Network Convenes Youth-Led Meetings with Two Legislative Offices to Discuss Teen Mental Health.....	5
Karen Wolk Feinstein and Value Capture CEO Ken Segel Discuss Why the U.S. Needs an NPSB	6
PA PQC December Quarterly Meeting Underscores the Successes and Year Ahead	7
PA Long-Term Care Learning Network Introduces New Partnerships with IHI to Improve Nursing Home Quality.....	8
Four Patient Safety Awards Added to National Competitions	9
Osher “Closure” Course Provides End-of-Life Education to Older Adults.....	10
Meet the Future: JHF Attends 2023 CES Digital Health Summit.....	10
Allegheny County Medical Society Highlights PA POLST Legislation.....	12
JHF Welcomes Two New Members and One Returning to Board.....	12
Dean Jackie Dunbar-Jacob Joins JHF as a Medical Advisor	13
JHF Welcomes new Policy Director, Carolyn Byrnes, MPH, CPH.....	14
Now Hiring: Behavioral Health Project Manager	14
Dr. Jason Adelman Earns John M. Eisenberg Award for Individual Achievement.....	15
Chris Hart Advances Safety for All.....	16

JHF Approves over \$1.9M in Grants, Including Funding for Patient Safety Innovation and to Support Inspiring Health Journalism

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) approved over \$1.9 million in grants, including funding for patient safety research at the University of Pittsburgh, new funding for the creation of a documentary highlighting patient safety innovators, and local nonprofit media awards to support health reporting at the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, PublicSource, WESA, and WQED.



Funding for Patient Safety Research

JHF approved a \$500,000 grant to the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) School of Medicine's Department of Biomedical Informatics for its Medication Error Avoidance at Regional Scale (MEARS) project. The project will bring together a diverse team of Pitt faculty—working with Carnegie Mellon University's Initiative for Patient Safety Research—to develop, test, and implement the MEARS project, a medication monitoring intervention for skilled nursing facility patients transitioning between hospitals and long-term care. The goal of the MEARS project is to use data to reduce preventable adverse drug events, identify patients who have experienced medication-related kidney injury and other adverse effects from medications; and employ strategies for communicating potential medication errors and risks to avoid issues with alert fatigue.

The study will design and rigorously evaluate a clinical decision support system that can act as an adverse drug event prevention intervention by developing and pilot testing a system able to identify medication errors occurring during patient care transitions from hospitals to a skilled nursing facility and pilot a medication monitoring intervention. The study will also result in validated and sharable decision support rules using data from multiple care settings.

Pitt's School of Medicine Department of Biomedical Informatics brings together a diverse group of faculty committed to improving biomedical research and clinical care through the application of innovative technologies.

Documentary Film about Patient Safety Innovation

JHF approved funding of up to \$250,000 to produce a 50-minute feature-length documentary film to raise awareness of the opportunity for technology innovation in patient safety. Tall Tale Productions, producers of the patient safety documentary *To Err Is Human*, have been identified to serve as the creative partner and producer of the documentary. The new film is inspired by JHF's grant to the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) to fuel the engagement of students and innovators in envisioning transformational approaches to reducing preventable harm from medical errors in its recently launched Patient Safety Technology Challenge. The documentary will tell the stories of the innovators who rose to meet the challenge and their ideas to shape the future of patient safety.

Media Partner Awards

JHF approved a two-year, \$200,000 grant divided equally between four nonprofit media organizations that provide thoughtful, fact-based healthcare reporting and programming to inform and educate the residents of southwestern Pennsylvania. Media recipients include the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, PublicSource, WESA, and WQED.

The Foundation has long recognized the importance of engaging the community and empowering consumers to take responsibility for their own health and changing the healthcare systems that serve them. Media organizations can play a significant role in educating and engaging the public in issues of healthcare policy and personal action. Verifiable facts from nonpartisan sources enable the public to effect positive change, and result in better outcomes for a broad range of critical issues

Grant renewals

Two grant renewals were approved, including: A one-year, \$900,000 block grant to the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, which is distributed to beneficiary agencies to address the health needs of the Jewish community. Since its founding in 1990, JHF has provided an annual block grant to the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. The block grant, which benefits the Jewish Association on Aging, the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family and Community Services, Riverview Towers, and Jewish Residential Services, represents 60% of the \$1.5 million distributed annually by the Federation to the local community for aging and human service needs.

A one-year, \$68,000 renewal grant to the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania Impact Fund. JHF has provided a yearly grant to the Impact Fund since it was launched in 2002 to support the United Way's core partner agencies and address critical community needs.

JHF Releases 2022 Year in Review

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation engaged local, statewide, national, and international partnerships throughout 2022 to drive reforms, envision potential solutions, implement new programs, and grow existing initiatives in patient safety, senior care, women's health, teen mental health, HIV/AIDS, and workforce development.

Putting an exclamation point on the respect for JHF's leadership, just a few months into the year, the Foundation had secured over \$26 million in public and private funds to ensure critical public health programs would reach our community. This makes 2022 JHF's most significant external funding year in its 31-year history as a valued partner and grants manager. Work to positively affect these issues is ongoing, but as this landmark year in funding wraps, we take a moment to recount the successes of the past year.

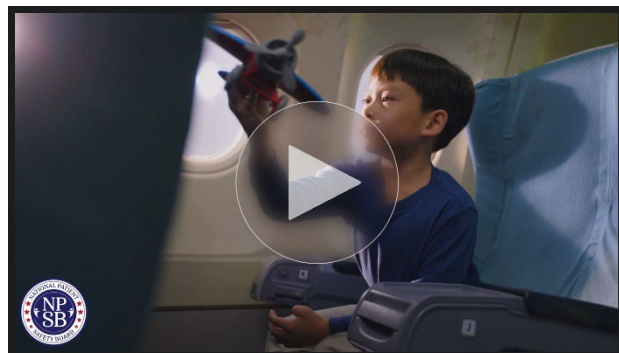


[Read the JHF 2022 Year in Review.](#)

New National Patient Safety Board Video Promotes the Need to Make Health Care as Safe as Flying

It's time for a [National Patient Safety Board](#) and to kick start the new year, the NPSB Advocacy Coalition released a [30-second video](#) calling viewers to take action [to support the creation of an NPSB](#). The goal of the video is to inform viewers about the persistent issue of patient safety and the need to make health care as safe as flying. Viewers are encouraged to visit [npsb.org](#) where they can reach out to their legislators to express their support for H.R. 9377 – the National Patient Safety Board Act, which creates an NPSB to create solutions to prevent patient safety events from occurring.

[Watch and share the video here.](#)



Death and Dying Fellowship Kicks Off

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF)'s 2023 Feinstein Fellowship on Death and Dying returned on January 23 with its first in-person session since 2020, held at the JHF offices in Downtown Pittsburgh. This year's fellowship welcomes 24 applicants who hail from 10 universities the Pittsburgh region and beyond and represent 11 academic disciplines, including medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, social work, public health, healthcare administration, and ethics.

Over the nine three-hour sessions this winter, participants will learn, confront, and discuss the legal, medical, social, cultural, familial, and spiritual aspects of death and dying and, most importantly, practice conversation skills within a multidisciplinary group in a low-pressure environment. This year, the fellowship will operate in a hybrid format, with some sessions being held via Zoom and the resumption of in-person visits to local facilities providing serious illness and end-of-life care.



Nancy Zionts discusses JHF's robust senior agenda and commitment to end-of-life education.

During the kickoff, JHF President & CEO Dr. Karen Feinstein provided an overview of the Foundation and its operating arms as well as the priority initiatives of patient safety, workforce development, women's health, HIV/AIDS, and aging. She emphasized the role of activism in effecting change and inspired the fellows through her steadfast commitment to these causes.

JHF COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts and JHF Medical Advisor Dr. Judy Black shared background on JHF's robust aging agenda and commitment to end-of-life education, based around the Closure model. They delved into the history and current state of end-of-life care in America and the reasons why discussing end-of-life care is essential for providers as well as patients and families. Fellows had the opportunity to their perspectives on their vision of a "good death," why people do not always get what they say they want at the end of life, and the barriers that keep providers from discussing prognosis with patients.

Over the course of the fellowship, the core JHF faculty will be supplemented by healthcare and community leaders from a range of health care organizations and facilities who will share their experiences and skills with the fellows. The program culminates with an opportunity for the fellows to use the skills they have gained to practice end-of-life conversations in small groups facilitated by experts.

PA Youth Advocacy Network Convenes Youth-Led Meetings with Two Legislative Offices to Discuss Teen Mental Health

To kickstart the new year, youth advocates from the PA Youth Advocacy Network organized two virtual meetings with representatives to discuss bills they sponsored related to teen mental health.



Youth advocates from across Pennsylvania met with Kate Samuelson of Sen. Bob Casey Jr.'s office to discuss current and future legislative action involving teen mental health and asked pointedly how they can be involved in the legislative process and make an impact.

The meeting was scheduled at an opportune time as the 118th Congress reflects on accomplishments including: The [Bi-Partisan Safer Communities Act](#), of which nearly \$11B is allocated to certified community health clinics to increase access to affordable mental health treatment services; and the [Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill](#), which includes \$2.8B in block grants focusing on mental health for children and people in marginalized communities. In the 117th Congress, Senator Casey also introduced the [RISE Act \(Respond, Innovate, Support, and Empower Students with Disabilities Act\)](#), which amends the Higher Education Act to clarify the documentation used in K-12 education to receive special education or accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1983, and the Individuals with Disabilities Act, among other types of documentation, is sufficient to demonstrate an individual has a disability in the context of higher education; and the [Healthcare Capacity for Pediatric Mental Health Act of 2022](#), which establishes programs to support pediatric mental,

emotional, behavioral, and substance use disorder services in underserved and other high-need areas by awarding funding to children's hospitals and other facilities providing pediatric care.

Samuelson encouraged youth to create a clear vision and communicate what is important to them, including what programs and services they're seeing and not seeing in their communities and schools; to speak up when bills impacting with youth mental health are introduced; and to follow up when allocations are made to express if and how they are impacting the community; and to speak up and advocate for organizations in their communities that are doing great work so they are considered when funding is available.

During the group's meeting with state Sen. Schwank, the teen working group whose focus has been [around mental health days](#) asked how they could be active in decision-making at the state level and help advance the [Senator's legislation](#) – Senate Bill 506 to amend the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for excuses from attending school.

She advised the advocates that ways they can get involved is by advocating to get legislation to the floor by writing letters, gathering petitions, and to be ready to present if a hearing on mental health legislation comes to the floor, even in cases that are intertwined with mental health, such as school violence. She also encouraged them to go to their school board when bills are presented to talk about the legislation or about funding that is available to impact mental health services.

"I do tend to believe, as most of you do, that mental health is health care," Sen. Schwank said. "I think that most schools are enlightened enough now about the issues you face as students that it would be unthinkable for them to penalize a student for receiving mental health treatment in some way." The teen working group looks forward to growing a coalition of support, organizing youth voices, and meeting with additional leaders in the legislature.

Karen Wolk Feinstein and Value Capture CEO Ken Segel Discuss Why the U.S. Needs an NPSB

Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein and Value Capture CEO and founding director of the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative (PRHI) Ken Segel discussed why federal action is critical to address preventable medical harms during a January 25 *Habitual Excellence* webinar moderated by Mark Graban, director of strategic marketing at Value Capture.

Dr. Feinstein and Segel discussed how the failure can be traced, in part, to the lack of a single federal agency that studies medical errors and identifies ways to prevent them. They detailed how the PRHI has spearheaded a national coalition calling for a proposed federal independent agency, the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB), modeled in part after the National Transportation Safety Board and the Commercial



Mark Graban (left), Ken Segel (right), and Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein discuss the National Patient Safety Board.

Aviation Safety Team. The NPSB would identify and anticipate significant harm in health care; provide expertise to study the context and causes of harm and solutions; and create solutions to prevent patient safety events from occurring. In December, legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives: [H.R.9377 – the National Patient Safety Board Act](#).

The discussion covered topics including: The inspiration provided by the late Paul O'Neill; progress made on patient safety in the last two decades; best practices for sharing proven approaches for preventing harm; the creation of the NPSB, the coalition that has been formed to support it and how attendees can get involved.

[Watch the recording here.](#)

PA PQC December Quarterly Meeting Underscores the Successes and Year Ahead

The [Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative's](#) (PA PQC) December 14th quarterly learning session gathered 14 community Champions and seven hospital participants representing three birthing health systems in Allegheny County to discuss the success and future of the [Perinatal Health Equity Champions](#) program as part of [Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City](#).

The session included the Perinatal Health Equity Champions Pilot Panel, moderated by Jennifer Condel, SCT(ASCP)MT,

manager of Lean Healthcare Strategy and Implementation at JHF, a panel of four Perinatal Health Equity Champions, both community and hospital partners, including: Selena Eisenberg, Midwife, Birth and Postpartum Doula, Divin Geri Endij'en; Aya Eliza-Christie, SW, MSN, CNM, certified midwife, The Midwife Center; Shawndel Laughner, MHA, BSN, CNML, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, director, Women & Children's Services; and Natalie Shovlin-Bankole, BA, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology Resident, UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital.

During the discussion, Condel provided background on the Perinatal Health Equity Champions program as part of Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City, which was established in 2019 through a grant by Merck for Mothers and focuses on supporting the work of community-based organizations in the Pittsburgh region, specifically five Black-owned community-based organizations. The Perinatal Health Equity Champions Program evolved from this framework and a desire to support the birth workers.



Pictured are patient voice panelists: Huda Altamimi, MPH, BS, quality improvement coordinator, United Outstanding Physicians (top left); Sarah Johnson, maternal peer navigator, Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative; Marianne Drexler, founder of Maternal Near-Miss Survivors (bottom left); and Katie Spencer, maternal mental health advocate, NAMI.



Pictured are Champion Pilot panelists: Natalie Shovlin-Bankhole, BA, MD (top left); Shawndel Laughner, MHA, BSN, CNML, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS (top right); Aya Eliza-Christine, SW, MSN, CNM (bottom left); and Selena Eisenberg, birth and postpartum doula, Divin Geri Endij'en.

The 2019 City of Pittsburgh's Gender Equity Commission report found that in the City of Pittsburgh, and Allegheny County at large, Black birthing women are dying at a rate three times higher than white women. The Champions program became an opportunity to pilot a model for collaboration and relationship building between community and hospital birth workers to develop shared opportunities for quality improvement initiatives to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women and birthing people.

A four-person patient panel was also convened to speak to lived experience about the issues surrounding health equity and to center a discussion on opportunities for patient voices to become a part of quality improvement work. Moderated by Aasta Mehta, MD, MPP and led by Carol Frazer, LPC, practice transformation specialist, Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, the panel included: Marianne Drexler, of Durham N.C., a patient advocate working in the School of Medicine; Katie Spencer, a Scranton-based maternal mental health advocate with

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); Sarah Johnson of Tulsa, Ok., an advocate working with the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Collaborative; and Huda Altamimi, an advocate with MoMMA's Voices and a quality improvement coordinator with Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance.

The quarterly learning session sparked discussions about: The successes and future directions of the PA PQC based on the PA PQC's structure and process measures; explained the model for collaboration between community and perinatal health workers and hospital quality improvement teams; discussed actionable steps to take after collecting and disaggregating data by race and ethnicity to increase maternal and neonatal health equity; covered statewide MMRC and Child Death Review data and how it relates to PA PQC initiatives; and outlined successful partnerships between hospital QI teams and patients with lived experience and the steps taken to achieve these collaborations.

PA Long-Term Care Learning Network Introduces New Partnerships with IHI to Improve Nursing Home Quality

On January 19, the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Learning Network kicked off the first quarter of programming for the year. The selected theme for the quarter will focus on introducing participants to Age-Friendly Health Systems (AFHS) and evidence-based care for older adults through its new partnership with The Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and as a tie in to the work of the PA Pilot project for Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home, sponsored by JHF, the John A. Hartford Foundation, Henry L. Hillman



Foundation, and Independence Foundation. Through this collaboration with the PA Learning Network, Pennsylvania becomes the first state to make a deep dive into the curriculum available to its hundreds of nursing facilities statewide.

Speakers Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior advisor for aging, The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Institute for Healthcare Improvement and Amy Walsh, MS, IHI program manager, gave an overview of the Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in partnership with the American Hospital Association and the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Its mission is to build a social movement so all care with older adults is age-friendly care that is guided by an essential set of evidence-based practices (4Ms: what Matters, Medication, Mentation, Mobility), causes no harm, and is consistent with what matters to the older adults and their family.

The movement has spread to 2,600 sites with over 2,944 hospitals, practices, convenient care clinics, and nursing homes joining the movement and growing globally. More than 1,996,000 older adults have been reached with the 4Ms of care.

Four Patient Safety Awards Added to National Competitions

Four additional competitions are participating in the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#) funded by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and administered by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative: TreeHacks at Stanford University, Holloman Health Innovation Challenge at the University of Washington – Seattle, the International VR Healthcare Association’s Patient Safety Technology Challenge, and the MIT Health Datathon.



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 and reimagine a vastly safer healthcare system.

The new competitions will feature awards recognizing tech-enabled patient safety solutions.

TreeHacks, held February 17-19, is Stanford’s premier hackathon and one of the largest hackathons in the nation, inviting over 1,000 students from across the globe to envision and build solutions, all in 36 hours. A \$2,000 grand prize will be given to the team with the best tech-enabled solution. Holloman Health Innovation Challenge encourages undergraduate and graduate students from a Cascadia Corridor college or university to submit novel ideas that are reviewed by nearly 150 expert judges from the local life science community who provide feedback and choose award winners, including a \$2,500 Patient Safety Tech prize.

International Virtual Reality Healthcare Association’s (IVRHA) Patient Safety Technology Challenge will provide three cash prizes for the best entries around the FUTURIST: Patient Safety

Transformation Award for envisioning a transformative approach for a safer healthcare system that disrupts legacy systems of who delivers what care, when, and how.

MIT Health Datathon, scheduled to be held May 18-19 in Cambridge, Mass., will showcase the value of harnessing the talent and perspectives of students from different disciplines and backgrounds in understanding patient safety from a health equity lens. Built on the principles of Open Science, Citizen Science, and Open Innovation, this datathon looks to reframe the issue of patient safety with stronger focus on health disparities, since treatment injuries disproportionately affect marginalized patient populations. The event will bring together students from underrepresented groups and professionals across several disciplines.

Learn more about these and other participating competitions [here](#).

Osher “Closure” Course Provides End-of-Life Education to Older Adults

For the fifth year, Jewish Healthcare Foundation’s (JHF’s) end-of-life staff are leading a class at Carnegie Mellon University’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. “Closure: Discussing the Last Chapter” is adapted from the JHF *Closure* curriculum and provides adult learners with the opportunity to increase their understanding of issues around serious illness, advance care planning, and the very personal concepts of what constitutes “a good life” and “a good death.” The series kicked off on January 11 with a 90-minute session held via Zoom. Nancy Zionts, COO and chief program officer, Judy Black, MD, MHA, medical advisor, and Lisa George, senior communications and program specialist, provided an overview of the historical aspects of end-of-life care and why having conversations around end of life is so important—before a healthcare crisis occurs. Additional sessions are focused on advance directives, POLST (Physician’s Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment), and palliative care and hospice. The POLST session included the opportunity to learn via case studies presented by Dr. Black and guest faculty Kalpana Char, MD, Suzanne Labriola, DO, and Libby Moore. In addition to the weekly presentations, participants also receive extensive resources to support them in having often-challenging conversations with their family members about what they would want at the end of life. The series concludes on February 8 with a session crafted around participants’ areas of interest, including a presentation on grief and small-group discussions of advance directives for persons with dementia, physician aid in dying, and organ donation.



at
Carnegie Mellon University

Meet the Future: JHF Attends 2023 CES Digital Health Summit

Since 2009, the most influential players in healthcare innovation and technology, including the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, have also traveled to CES for its Digital Health Summit in search of innovative ways technology can enhance healthcare delivery, outcomes, and delivery.

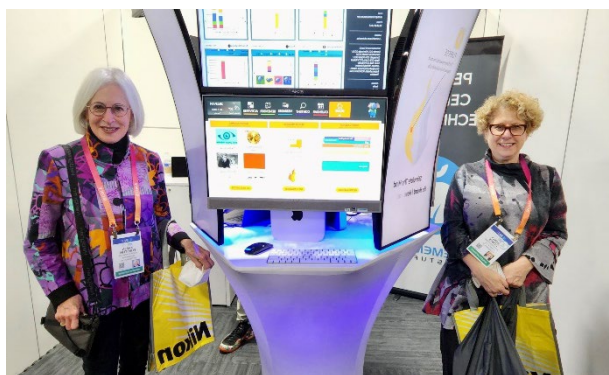
CES features more than 3,200 exhibitors representing 173 countries, territories, and regions. The innovations that took center stage in 2023 were those that increase efficiency in health care, improve health equity, and save lives as patients seek ways to empower themselves and take control of their care and wellbeing. Among the exhibits and experiences of interest were the digital twin, a technology using the digital world to improve the physical one by predicting how a person might perform in real-world health scenarios; special sessions on women in technology; and tools to help meet the moment of the growing mental health epidemic.

JHF President and CEO Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein and COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts represented JHF at the 2023 Digital Health Summit, which was held on January 8 and 9. CES, which is owned and produced by the Consumer Technology Association, attracts more than 180,000 total attendees from around the world.

The Digital Health Summit featured the latest in consumer technologies, including machine learning and AI, virtual and augmented reality, precision drug treatments, condition-specific wearables, sleep and fitness tracking, telemedicine, 3D printing, and data security/Blockchain. Sessions explored the topics of the opportunities and challenges of the increasing role of big tech in health, the future of at-home testing and diagnosis, and ensuring a diversity of voices and talent are involved in developing new technology for health care.

The insights from CES provide JHF with a window into the future of healthcare technology to inform its agenda to advance patient safety and its work in senior care. As the guest of Steve Ewell, Dr. Feinstein and Zionts met with other grant makers in aging for a luncheon and to tour various exhibits highlighting how technology is supporting seniors aging in the community, and their caregivers.

Dr. Feinstein remarked the continued innovation of at-home testing and diagnostic technologies on display at CES have the potential to bridge gaps in care to begin to make health care more inclusive and patient-centered, to equip community health workers with the data necessary provide efficient and effective care, and to empower individuals with data to become active participants in and advocates for their own care.



Nancy Zionts and Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein at the CES Digital Healthcare Summit in Las Vegas.



Nancy Zionts demonstrates the digital twin technology at the CES conference.

Allegheny County Medical Society Highlights PA POLST Legislation

In a recent post on The Allegheny County Medical Society's ACMS Insights, Jewish Healthcare Foundation senior communications and program specialist Lisa George, MPH, CHES, outlined the current Pennsylvania Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form used in the state since 2010 to provide a standardized way to translate patients' wishes for care into actionable medical orders, and the importance of new legislation currently in the Pennsylvania Senate that would revise the PA law to codify POLST to be used by medical professionals across all healthcare settings. [Read more on the ACMS website.](#)



JHF Welcomes Two New Members and One Returning to Board

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) recently welcomed two new Board members Nancy Washington, Med, MD, PhD and Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD. It also welcomed its returning member Evan Indianer. Each will serve a three-year term.

Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD, is the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences and the John and Gertrude Petersen Dean, at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Shekhar leads all six health sciences schools (Dental Medicine, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health) and is responsible for over 6,000 faculty and staff members, as well as approximately 5,000 students. Dr. Shekhar's areas of expertise include basic and clinical research on the effects of stress, stress-induced psychiatric disorders, and clinical psychopharmacology. His laboratory has developed several translational models for psychiatric disorders as well as identified novel targets for neuropsychiatric disorder treatments in commercial development. Grants from the NIH, private foundations and commercial collaborations have supported his research. He has co-authored more than 200 original scientific papers published in leading basic science and clinical journals. He is a founder of multiple biotech companies developing novel therapies. Dr. Shekhar is an elected member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation. Dr. Shekhar earned his medical degree at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, and PhD in neuroscience at Indiana University.



Pictured from left to right are: Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD; Nancy Washington, Med, MS, PhD; and Evan Indianer.

Nancy Washington, MEd, MS, PhD, is an educator, academic administrator, and community activist. Her career with the University of Pittsburgh began in 1972 as an assistant professor of

psychology and concluded with her retirement in 1999. After graduating with her PhD in Psychology, she became a senate officer for the university, representing the Greensburg campus. Dr. Washington went on to serve as an assistant professor of clinical epidemiology and family medicine and assistant dean of minority affairs at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In 1993, Dr. Washington became assistant to the chancellor, where she focused on minority affairs at affiliated schools and helped the Black Action Society start a black cultural center on campus. Dr. Washington retired from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999. During her career, Dr. Washington also served on various boards, including Pennsylvania's Council on the Arts, The Carnegie Museum of Art, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and the Pittsburgh Foundation. Additionally, Dr. Washington has received many awards for her work, which include the YWCA's Voluntary Community Service Leadership Award in 2001, the Humanitarian Award from Three Rivers Youth in 2008, the Outstanding Community Leaders Award by the Community College of Allegheny County in 2010, and the History Makers Award in the field of community service, given by the Senator John Heinz History Center for contributions to the history of Western Pennsylvania. She received her B.S. degree in education from Boston, and her M.Ed. and M.S. degrees from Temple University.

Evan Indianer was an active member of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation board from 2015-2020. Indianer has 40 years of experience as a serial entrepreneur and executive responsible for sales, development, and management of technology solutions in a variety of industries. Indianer has acted as technology advisor and architect to Compliance Assurance, YouCompli, Wellbridge Health, and Emodt. He holds multiple patents for his innovations in the marketplace. Indianer is founder and CEO of Unicentric, Inc. Unicentric's flagship products are legalxpert and servicexpert that are built on Unicentric's case management platform a cloud based highly customizable enterprise solution utilized in the social assistance, healthcare, and legal marketplaces. Indianer has been recognized as one of the "Top 40 under 40" who makes a difference in Pittsburgh, one of Pittsburgh's Fifty Finest in recognition of his activity in the community, professional success, and commitment to others through charitable causes, and received the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh 2009 William and Olga Stark Leadership Award. Indianer is a former National Young Leadership cabinet member and a National Solicitation trainer.

Dean Jackie Dunbar-Jacob Joins JHF as a Medical Advisor

[Jackie Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN](#), had joined the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Health Careers Futures as a medical advisor to support the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home initiative and women's aging projects.

Dr. Dunbar-Jacob is a current member of the Health Careers Futures (HCF) Board, a past Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) board member, and a friend of the Foundation.

Recently retired, she served for 35 years at the University of Pittsburgh as a faculty member, 21 of those as dean of the



university's School of Nursing. She has worked as a staff nurse, unit manager, nursing director, and has taught nursing at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Most recently, she has also served as the Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing, an emeritus member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and an advisory professor to Fudan University in Shanghai, China. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the American Psychological Association, the Society for Behavioral Medicine, the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, and the American Heart Association.

JHF Welcomes new Policy Director, Carolyn Byrnes, MPH, CPH

Carolyn Byrnes, MPH, CPH, joins the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) as the organization's policy director. Prior to JHF, she was a senior advisor to the Secretary of Health and Physician General for Pennsylvania. She served as a senior advisor since 2018 and previously as a special assistant. During her time at the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Ms. Byrnes worked on a myriad of public health issues, including improving maternal and child health, addressing health equity issues, and responding to the opioid epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic. She is a former member of several government boards and committees, including the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine, the PA Maternal Mortality Review Committee, and the PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative's Advisory Group. She currently serves as the public health leader in residence for the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. She received her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh, and her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Loyola University Chicago. She is certified in Public Health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.



Now Hiring: Behavioral Health Project Manager

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) seeks applicants for a Behavioral Health Project Manager. The BH Project Manager will develop project plans to execute JHF's role in the anticipated BH program, ensure roles and standard work processes are in place to carry out JHF's scope of work, facilitate weekly internal meetings to coordinate this work among the JHF team, work with JHF staff members to recruit participants, oversee adherence to and alignment with the program budget, and serve as the primary point of contact with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services



(ACDHS).

This is a unique opportunity to enhance the Pittsburgh region's capacity to address its mental health needs, and directly support the behavioral health workforce. Read more and learn how to [apply here](#).

Dr. Jason Adelman Earns John M. Eisenberg Award for Individual Achievement

Jason S. Adelman, MD, MS, a chief patient safety officer and associate chief quality officer and friend of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has been awarded the Individual Achievement Award in the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards in recognition of his achievements to improve patient safety and healthcare quality.

The Joint Commission and National Quality Forum (NQF) present Eisenberg Awards annually to recognize major achievements to improve patient safety and healthcare equity. John Eisenberg, MD, MBA was a friend of JHF and an impassioned advocate for healthcare quality improvement, whose ongoing support and leadership at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) assisted the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative to achieve its early successes.

Dr. Adelman is the executive director of the Center for Patient Safety Research; director, Patient Safety Research Fellowship, Columbia University Irving Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian; associate professor of medicine (in biomedical informatics) and vice chair for quality and patient safety, Department of Medicine, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is a member of PRHI's Patient Safety Technology Challenge Advisory Board.



He is a leader and innovator in the medical errors field, developing novel methods to measure and prevent errors in health IT systems. Among his key accomplishments is the development of the Wrong-Patient Retract-and-Reorder (RAR) Measure that detects wrong patient orders in electronic health record data. The RAR Measure has subsequently facilitated a large body of patient safety research, including medication errors and wrong-patient orders in neonatal intensive care units.

As executive director and founder of the Center for Patient Safety Research, Dr. Adelman has led several National Institutes of Health and AHRQ-funded projects to test safety interventions across the interventions' lifespans. His far-reaching impact has contributed to national and international safety recommendations, including from The Joint Commission and NQF.

Chris Hart Advances Safety for All

Chris Hart's multi-faceted career reflects a common thread. That thread is safety and the aspiration to make the world a better place.

"My mother told me the first thing she ever saw me draw was an airplane. I became big on safety decades ago and have pursued it ever since," said Hart, who added that his mother was a teacher and his father worked in housing and urban redevelopment. It was a given that "if you've got skills, talent and energy that can be used to do good things, you use them to make life better for everybody."

Hart is a lawyer, former government official, pilot, transportation safety expert, and founder of Hart Solutions LLC, where he works as a consultant to help improve the safety of automation in motor vehicles, aviation and other transportation modes, workplace safety, and process safety in potentially hazardous industries, most recently including healthcare. What these industries have in common is the importance of doing things right the first time every time, and they are often not forgiving of errors.

He holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in aeronautical engineering, both from Princeton University, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

He is Chairman of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, which he has served for the last five years to improve the safety of the Washington, D.C., area subway system, and is a former assistant administrator of system safety and deputy director of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Hart's passion for flying is in his blood. In 1926, Hart's great uncle, James Herman Banning, was the first African American to receive a pilot's license issued by the United States government. Hart himself is a licensed pilot with commercial, multi-engine, and instrument ratings.

In 1990, he was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate to serve as a member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and in June 2014 he was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the chairman of the NTSB. He served for three terms on the NTSB in several positions including as a board member, vice chair, and chair.

While at the FAA, he read the U.S. Institute of Medicine's landmark "To Err is Human: Building A Safer Health System" report, published in November 1999, which asserted that the prevalence of medical error is not caused by bad people in health care, rather good people working in bad systems that need to be made safer.

"That's when the light bulb lit for me that – wow – the safety protocols we use that are so successful in aviation are applicable to other industries, including not only healthcare, but also nuclear power, chemical manufacturing and refining, you name it. That report really got me started on healthcare safety," Hart said.



In his career in the skies and in prominent safety circles on the ground, Hart has played an important role in breaking down some major barriers.

“One of the big problems in aviation has been centuries of maritime tradition where nobody challenged the captain and everyone spoke to the captain only when spoken to. There was a huge vertical authority gradient. Aviation did that for a long time until we started seeing accidents relating to people who didn’t challenge the captain even when they were sure something wasn’t right, including the worst accident in aviation history, with 583 fatalities,” Hart said.

He added another important factor in changing outcomes is changing the environment to be more collaborative, open to discussing and sharing information about errors and near misses so that they don’t occur again.

Heightened awareness of and commitment to minimizing potential single point failures has had a sizeable impact on the safety of flight which can be translated to health care. Another safety hazard arises in healthcare when hospitals have equipment from different manufacturers that perform the same function but have different controls. He likens it to the increased likelihood of car crashes if car manufacturers didn’t all put the gas and brake pedal on the same side.

“Humans in healthcare are already trying their best. They’re passionate about doing good, and their credo is to do no harm. But humans are imperfect and make mistakes. Once you admit that, you can put your focus on not only improving the human but, as noted in the IOM report, “To Err is Human,” improving the systems that they use.”

“The bottom line is there are huge opportunities for the industry to learn from each other. Even though health care is far more complex and variable than aviation, there’s a lot to be learned.”

As a member of the Patient Safety Full Court Press team, Hart said one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Foundation is that it’s not in denial that there is a problem in health care. Reports show there are 250,000 preventable error deaths every year in the U.S. and that one in four receiving health care in the U.S. experience harm.

“That’s a public health disaster. What I like about the Foundation is its recognition that, yes, there are major problems that need to be fixed and there are things we can do to make this much better. There are ways to move the needle significantly and sustainably.”