



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

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JHF Documentary “The Pitch” Premieres at Cleveland International Film Festival

On April 12, the 28th annual [Cleveland International Film Festival](#) hosted the world premiere of the documentary, [The Pitch: Patient Safety’s Next Generation](#), followed by Q&As with the filmmakers. In total, over 200 people attended two screenings of the film at the festival, garnering a fantastic reception with many questions about the future of technology in medicine and next steps to improve patient safety.

The Pitch: Patient Safety’s Next Generation explores a new wave of technology and innovation – including AI and VR solutions – designed to make health care safer. Through expert interviews, real-world technology solutions, and one young innovator’s journey into the business of medicine, *The Pitch* looks at the evolving role of technology in improving patient safety across medicine. From the director of [To Err Is Human: A Patient Safety Documentary](#), *The Pitch* was funded and executive produced by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.



From left to right: Matthew Downe, Scotland Huber, Karen Feinstein, Kailey Brackett, Mike Eisenberg, Robert Ferguson, and Ariana Longley at the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Cleveland International Film Festival draws more than 100,000 film enthusiasts annually and is an Academy® qualifying festival.

The Pitch is built upon the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#), a project of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) and funded by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), which has been sponsoring patient safety awards across the nation since late 2022. Through these awards, the filmmakers were able to identify two of the innovators featured in the film. The film closely follows Reetam Ganguli, a Brown University MD Candidate and OBGYN machine learning researcher who won the patient safety award from the University of San Diego’s Fowler Global Social Innovation Competition, and Dr. James Clarkson’s innovation, Wide Awake VR (WAVR). Both were finalists for the 2023 SXSW Innovation Awards that were also part of the Patient Safety Technology Challenge.



Filmmakers Mike Eisenberg and Kailey Brackett introduce and discuss *The Pitch* at its world premiere in Cleveland.

The Pitch will next be available to screen as part of the [JFilm Festival](#) for those in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia between May 2 and May 12. Use the code “JHFJF24” to get \$3 off your ticket.

Read more about *The Pitch* in [the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) and in the [Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle](#).

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Awards \$665K in Grants to Address Critical Issues Affecting Vulnerable Older Adults

JHF approved \$665,000 in grants, including funds to create programming to engage older adults at risk for or with early cognitive decline; initial funding to explore gender and income equities in financial planning for women as they age; financial support to the Jewish Assistance Fund; support to develop a new model of vision and hearing care for older adults in the Pittsburgh region; and funds for an original exhibit by the Rauh Jewish Archives.



Awards over \$665K

Engaging Seniors at Risk for or with Early Cognitive Decline

JHF approved up to \$300,000 for 2024-2025 to support persons at risk for or with early cognitive decline. The effort includes a pilot of new memory cafes in the community aimed to improve the daily functioning of at-risk seniors. The project will engage community partners, including the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (JCC) in Squirrel Hill and the Vintage Senior Center in East Liberty, to provide feedback and implementation support on the models. The first phase of the project, expected to last eight months, will involve planning focused on creating the most effective models of engagement for at-risk seniors and an initial implementation and evaluation of the memory cafes in Fall 2024. Older adults with early-stage cognitive impairment and their caregivers will be able to assess programming to create a sustainable model for memory cafes that can be replicated throughout our region. Memory cafes are community-based gathering places that can serve as a resource hub, offering support for families of caregivers and activities geared toward participants' interests and abilities.

Advancing Gender and Income Equity in Financial Planning for Women as They Age

A \$150,000 grant over two years to Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management will support research into how financial policies, resources, and structures have disadvantaged women and detracted from their ability to be healthy and safe in their older years. More than 35 percent of women in the U.S. who are aged 65 or older live with resources 200 percent below the poverty line. This poverty compromises women's access to adequate medical, dental, vision, and mental health services. The first phases of work will catalog policy and market successes and failures, taking note of gender differences in income and assets, paid and unpaid caregiving, and health, disability, and risks that are often part of aging. The Heller School of Social Policy and Management is a leader in creating sustainable solutions to social inequities and developing students who are interested in careers in social justice. Academic research partners for this grant are Karen Donelan, ScD, the Stuart H. Altman Professor and Chair of U.S. Health Policy in the Institute on Healthcare Systems, and Christine E. Bishop, PhD, the Atran Foundation Professor of Economics, both at Brandeis.

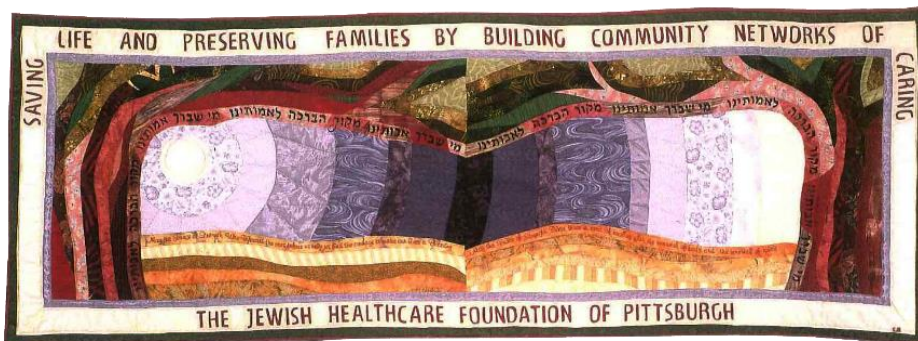
The Jewish Assistance Fund: Emergency Funds to Address Community Health Needs

JHF approved support to the Jewish Assistance Fund (JAF) of \$100,000 total for a period of five years. The JAF is one of the few sources of financial support for seniors, homeless, battered, recently immigrated, or impoverished persons in the community. Requests for assistance are received confidentially and where possible, the JAF requests repayment so that funds can be available for others with future needs. JHF will provide \$20,000 a year for the next five years specifically earmarked for medical, dental, and health needs. The JAF will then disburse those funds as needed and report back to JHF on trends or needs they are seeing.

Vision and Hearing Care Without Bounds: A New Model of Care for Older Adults in Our Community

A \$90,000 grant to the Eye and Ear Foundation will allow it and partners in the University of Pittsburgh Departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology to engage a project manager to define community needs and the efficacy of fundamentally changing the landscape of screenings and follow-up care from the traditional model of care in a center or office to new models of care delivery that use community health workers (CHWs), and include remote testing, technology, and telehealth applications. As the program progresses, JHF will consider continued funding at a declining level.

The Healing Power of Handcrafted Art: Louise Silk, A Patchwork Life



Pictured is Louise Silk's quilt which is displayed at the entrance of the JHF's downtown office.

JHF approved a \$25,000 grant to the Rauh Jewish Archives at The Senator John Heinz Center in support of an original exhibit, *Louise Silk: A Patchwork Life*, which opens in September and runs through April 2025. Funding from JHF will support programming around the exhibit that includes an emphasis on the history of

"Jewish feminism." Silk, a Pittsburgh-based artist, writer, and quilter, has generously created and donated many quilts to the community's Jewish agencies, including a large quilt that has been exhibited at the entrance to JHF.

Families USA Webinar Highlights the Patient Safety Crisis, NPSB Legislation

National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) Advocacy Coalition member Families USA hosted a webinar on April 4 to highlight the problem of preventable medical harm and how the new bipartisan NPSB legislation is an essential part of the solution.

[“First Do No Harm: Addressing the Patient Safety Crisis”](#)

examined the impact of medical error on the healthcare industry and patients and the role an NPSB would play in keeping patients safe and alleviating the strains on the healthcare system.

Leah Binder, president and CEO of [The Leapfrog Group](#) and NPSB Advocacy Coalition member, discussed the national patient safety crisis, highlighting the scope of the problem as well as the costs to health systems, purchasers, and patients. A surgical site infection, for example, costs purchasers a staggering \$39,000.

Patient advocate Sue Sheridan, founding member of [Patients for Patient Safety US](#) and NPSB Advocacy Coalition member, shared her family’s story of medical harm, noting that 800,000 patients experience a diagnostic error that results in permanent harm, disability, or death. This was the case with her son, Cal, who suffered undiagnosed kernicterus when he was born, which resulted in permanent brain damage. Sheridan, who served on the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Working Group on Patient Safety, highlighted how an NPSB could have prevented the harms experienced by her family and the need for collective action to move the legislation forward.

Families USA is a leading national, nonpartisan voice for healthcare consumers dedicated to achieving high-quality, affordable health care, and improved health for all.

[Watch the webinar here.](#)



Pictured: Hazel Law, upper left; Sue Sheridan, upper right; Leah Binder, bottom left; Robert Ferguson, bottom right.

From Pittsburgh to the World: JHF’s Vision for 2024

JHF has been steadily advancing its agenda in 2024 with priorities in each organizational focus area: patient safety, workforce development, women’s health, senior and long-term care, HIV/AIDS, and teen mental health.

Its goals for the year include:

Patient Safety:



- Engage in follow-up activities in support of the [National Patient Safety Board \(NPSB\) Act](#) by securing co-sponsors from the House Energy and Commerce Committee and introducing a companion bill in the Senate with Democratic and Republican sponsors.
- Insert the NPSB bill into a larger healthcare package on price and transparency.
- Launch the Patient Safety Technology Challenge's Grand Challenge with the final showcase being held at a national venue.
- Secure national distribution for the documentary *The Pitch: Patient Safety's Next Generation* and support screenings in 24 innovation hubs.
- Establish the Pittsburgh region as the birthplace of the safety movement and national hub of safety technology. This message will be shared through related materials, videos and a documentary based on learning drawn from the Safety Innovation Summit.
- Organize the development of an application from Pittsburgh-based safety and technology assets in response to Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) innovation funds and secure a commitment from Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration to increase the PA DCED innovation funds in the 2025-2026 state budget.
- Support the pilot testing of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Biomedical Information clinical decision support technology, which aims to reduce preventable adverse drug events in skilled nursing facilities.

Workforce Development:

- Engage more than 100 fellows in the 2024 fellowships, including two Death and Dying Fellowships, a Patient Safety Fellowship, and a Salk Health Activist Fellowship.
- Recruit 65 new BH Fellows and kick off three new cohorts while continuing to develop the program curriculum.
- Host at least 35 training sessions for the year across five cohorts of BH Fellows participants.

Aging:

- Secure contracts with Community HealthChoices managed care organizations in partnership with the Department of Human Services for the PA Long-Term Care Quality Learning Network; and conduct 40 weekly best practice webinars to 600+ long-term care facilities across the state.
- Continue to lead the second phase of the Teaching Nursing Home Collaborative, a three-year goal of reaching and engaging all nursing schools and all nursing homes in the state and five additional states.
- Continue to develop new standards for clinical nurse placement in nursing homes, matching and screening tools for academic practice partnerships, and develop and distribute six modules on leadership in nursing homes.
- Serve as lead convener for the state Long Term Care Policy Group.
- Support the existing eight dementia-friendly communities and add two new communities, and reach 20,000 Dementia Friends statewide by adding 300 each month. The program will also seek to add a Dementia Friends Champion in every county in the state.

- Offer a statewide dementia-friendly webinar series, release the Dementia Friends PA “Five Key Messages” video; and continue to support BOLD (a Centers for Disease Control grant in partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department) with the development of an implementation plan for the healthcare sector and convene regional stakeholders.
- Explore and test new models of care for seniors at risk for or with early cognitive decline, including local tests of memory cafes for seniors and caregivers at the Jewish Community Center and Vintage Seniors Center, both in Pittsburgh.

Women’s Health:

- Award remaining funds from the \$9 million federal and state contract which includes funding for the: Healthy Food Access program, Maternal Innovation program, Pregnancy Test funds, doula training funds for the Doula Commission and doula programs for the incarcerated, and contingency funds for the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative Safe Sleep Initiative and Perinatal Behavioral Health Consultation and Access program.
- Engage at least sixty hospitals in the PA PQC’s Initiatives to improve care for opioid use disorder, neonatal abstinence syndrome, sepsis, and safe sleep practices.
- Secure state funding to sustain the Perinatal Behavioral Health Consultation and Access Program beyond June 2025.
- Launch the PA Public-Private Perinatal Action Committee to adopt solutions to reduce maternal mortality, with funding from the HRSA State Mental Health Innovation Program.
- Support the PA Doula Commission, the PA Community Health Worker Collaborative, and the PA Department of Human Services in adding certified doulas and CHWs as billable providers.
- Following the JHF/ Salzburg Global Seminar, *Women’s Health Inequity as We Age: The Next Frontier*, create subcommittees to focus on the many possibilities revealed by the seminar including developing a campaign to reframe caregiving; redesign medical and nursing curricula to focus on issues unique to women as they age; and to further inform medical research.
- Advance a focus on adequate long-term care insurance and financing, as well as inequity in systems and policy with research conducted by Brandeis University’s Heller School.

HIV/AIDS:

- Renew contracts for all agencies providing services through the Ryan White Part B funding and release a new Regional Needs Assessment for the next three-year period.
- Create a new guideline for client food services designed by an on-staff dietitian.
- Restructure the grant monitoring process and launch a new request for proposals for regional and Minority Aids Initiative (MAI) services.
- Redesign MAI’s provider collaborative and revamp the peer networking structure.
- Increase community engagement efforts by supporting a new Black HIV Awareness event, host *Too Hot for July* at a new location and the World AIDS Day celebration in December, support multiple Pride events throughout June, introduce an Allegheny County-wide PrEP education survey, and launch *Ending the Pandemic Pennsylvania*.

Teen Mental Health:

- Work to create a financing strategy to reimburse community organizations' mental health services.
- Support community organizations' workforce development to strengthen access to preventative mental health supports by leveraging the Teen Mental Health Collaborative and PA Youth Advocacy Network.
- Establish the PA Youth Advocacy Network as an advisory group for the Governor's Office, PA Department of Education, and legislators.
- Engage 34 teens from across the state in an eight-week, virtual series on developing advocacy skills.
- Facilitate Teen Mental Health Day proclamations across the state through county partnerships.

Jewish Community:

- Conduct research and planning with the Jewish Community Advisory Committee focused on the needs of older adults and teen mental health, evaluating comparative models and developing recommendations for the JHF Board regarding the allocation for aging and human services in the Jewish community.

Over \$4M in Maternal Care Innovation Grants Awarded to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

Nearly \$4.5 million in awards are currently under contract as part of a maternal care innovation opportunity spearheaded by Pennsylvania lawmakers dedicated to identifying promising practices in maternal care and reducing maternal mortality and morbidity across the Commonwealth.

JHF is operating as the fiscal agent for federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to address maternal health needs. An external review committee of experts from across Pennsylvania convened throughout 2023 to review proposals and make funding recommendations.



The following organizations will join those [previously announced](#) in October 2023 addressing the maternal health crisis, bringing the total number of awardees to 30:

- Accion Communal Latinoamericana de Montgomery County (ACLAMO) was awarded \$199,708.70 to support low-income Latinx expectant and new families in Montgomery County by providing three levels of case management, peer support groups, caregiver workshops to increase knowledge of health and wellness, and connecting people to providers supporting a continuum of care for expecting parents.

- African Family Health Organization (AFAHO) was awarded \$99,197 to expand their current maternal child health program through breastfeeding awareness and support, hiring culturally appropriate doulas to serve clients, establishing a social support group, strengthening workshop curriculum, and providing material resources to ensure pregnant African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees in the greater Philadelphia region have what they need to keep their babies safe and healthy.
- Brown Mamas, an organization based in Pittsburgh, was awarded \$100,000 to organize a "Womb, Wealth, & Wellness Weekend Conference." This event will focus exclusively on the holistic health and wellness needs of the Black mothering community in Pittsburgh. It will help to strengthen connections between community-based organizations and the families they serve, build awareness around new tech-focused solutions to maternal health issues, provide shared decision-making opportunities between health organizations and the families they serve, and more.
- The City of Philadelphia Office of Domestic Violence Strategies within the City's Office of Health and Human Services was awarded \$200,000 to enhance the Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline, serving as the foundation of a warm handoff referral system. Additionally, it will facilitate training for hotline workers to conduct safety planning for pregnant and postpartum people experiencing domestic violence, along with increased support materials specific to pregnant and postpartum people.
- An award of \$200,000 will support combining services of Beverly's Birthdays, MAYA, and NurturePA to connect homeless and low-income pregnant people to resources provided by all organizations. Beverly's Birthdays provides birthday cheer and critical baby care items, like diapers, wipes, safe sleep items, clothing, and more to expectant and new families. MAYA addresses pregnancy and early parenting challenges, particularly those faced by BIPOC and marginalized people, by providing free childbirth education, mentorship, doula care, counseling, and infant care items. NurturePA promotes effective and healthy parenting through an interactive text messaging platform where parents can engage with trained mentors who provide support and education.
- The Foundation of Delaware County was awarded \$200,000 to expand its services by hiring a full-time Spanish-speaking social worker to provide intensive case management to pregnant and parenting Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees, identifying and addressing barriers to accessing health and social services. Funds will also support the expansion of a resource center that will help clients navigate unfamiliar systems and create opportunities for peer-to-peer support for immigrant families through parent cafes, family dinners, and immigration clinics.
- The Foundation of Delaware County was also awarded \$200,000 to build out their existing home visiting program to include doulas; the expansion will involve services to low-income expectant parents in Delaware County. The Foundation will conduct outreach, screening and referral, doula support, integration into the continuum of care, evaluation of the program, and dissemination of findings to raise awareness and encourage evidence-based decision-making.
- The Health Equity Anti-Racism (HEAR) Committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Certified Nurse Midwives (PA-ACNM) was awarded \$200,000 to support the education of Black, Biracial Black, and African American midwives to build a more diverse midwifery workforce across Pennsylvania, increasing access to racially concordant reproductive and primary care and reducing racial disparities in pregnancy and healthcare outcomes.

- Healthy Start was awarded \$200,000 to support the Allegheny County Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Committee to improve systems of care, services, and resources for pregnant and birthing people. It aims to decrease the disparity in hypertensive disorders in pregnancy for Black-birthing people by increasing access to blood pressure monitoring and education for Black-birthing people and their families. Additionally, the FIMR Case Review Team will conduct interviews with parents who have experienced fetal loss and develop a standard rotation for presenting cases and recommendations to the FIMR Community Action Team. Funding will also be used to develop IT infrastructure within the organization.
- Lehigh Valley Hospital was awarded \$193,260 to reduce the load of prenatal visits for rural and low-income pregnant people by implementing virtual prenatal care, which includes patient-obtained weight, blood pressure, and fetal heart tone reporting. This will increase prenatal visit adherence, enabling patients to continue care from the convenience of their homes or workplaces, and avoiding the risks of maternal and neonatal morbidity that can result from insufficient prenatal care.
- Malama Health was awarded \$99,856 to expand its Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) management app to serve pregnant Pennsylvanians with gestational diabetes and those with pregestational diabetes. The app integrates mobile technology with biometric tracking devices to enable patients with GDM to sync their blood glucose values and easily log meals on their phones while providers asynchronously and remotely view patients' blood glucose logs and meal information in real time.
- Masters of Maternity was awarded \$100,000 to engage in workforce development by providing scholarships to students from marginalized populations for doula training, expanded training to reach community colleges across Pennsylvania, along with technical support through sustainability tools that doulas can use after they have completed their training. The expansion of doula training will initially focus on community colleges in the Allegheny County area.
- The Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC) was awarded \$100,000 to hire a manager and two doulas to work with existing Healthy Start home-visiting clients at MCHC. Community Health Workers currently provide holistic, trauma-informed care, addressing maternal health challenges, and educating clients about prenatal and postnatal care. Doulas will assist clients in developing birth plans, creating pregnancy care routines, providing blood pressure and depression screenings, providing referrals to a variety of resources to address social determinants of health, educating about the labor and delivery process, infant care, and self-care, as well as additional on-call support.
- The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) was awarded \$200,000 to reduce barriers to doula training and related certifications through scholarships that will provide training for 10 graduates of their home visiting programs to become Perinatal Community Health Worker Doulas. NNCC will partner with the Maternity Care Coalition to offer trauma-informed, culturally competent training within an experiential learning framework. Additionally, it will provide 70 high-risk pregnant home-visiting clients with doula services.
- New Sun Rising (Unshakeable Motherhood) was awarded \$100,000 to establish an app called NurtureHer. Facilitated through a collaborative network of mommy concierges and birth workers deployed via the app, both in-person and virtual guidance will be provided to African American and low-income families in the greater Pittsburgh region. The organization offers doula support, meal delivery, laundry assistance, and educational programs covering maternity, birth, and postpartum.

- Once Upon a Preemie, Inc. was awarded \$100,000 to expand access to its training academy statewide by providing 4 e-learning courses on implicit bias free of charge to 100 perinatal and neonatal professionals. A book donation program will provide books, free of charge, to those who complete the e-learning courses. This will equip healthcare professionals to eliminate personal bias, empower families to read to their preemies in the NICU, reduce stress, address maternal mental health, promote parent/child bonding, and improve patient and provider communication.
- PatientsRWaiting - Diversifying Doulas Initiative will use the awarded \$200,000 to train 10 people of color to become doulas in Lancaster, Harrisburg, and York, reducing barriers to entry and diversifying the perinatal workforce. They will implement new weekly classes for pregnant people of color and subsidize doula services for 100 historically marginalized clients.
- Philly Joy Bank was awarded \$198,565 to provide benefits and financial counseling to participants to decrease prenatal and postpartum stress, improve ability to address concrete needs, improve access and engagement in healthcare, and improve parent-child attachment and engagement.
- The University of Pennsylvania was awarded \$199,242 to conduct a landscape analysis and community listening sessions to comprehensively understand the prenatal care landscape in Philadelphia. Then, it will establish a prenatal care consortium called BirthBridge Philly, which will lay the groundwork for implementation of the AIM Community Care Initiative entitled "Community Care Postpartum Safety and Wellness Bundle," which provides steps to establish a system of care from birth through the first year postpartum. This will ensure that pregnant and postpartum people in Philadelphia receive the care and support needed to recover from birth, acclimate to motherhood, addressing medical, behavioral health, and psychosocial needs.
- The University of Pittsburgh was awarded \$199,306 to expand the reach of the family check-up preventive intervention to the prenatal period, leveraging this successful model to expand prenatal medical care and improve maternal resources and wellbeing. This model employs family coaches who use motivational interviewing and empower parents to identify goals and potential interventions to meet their goals.
- The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and PA Association of Certified Nurse-Midwives was awarded \$42,876 to be used for the development of a community-engaged scholarship project and steering committee between the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing academic faculty and midwives from PA Association of Certified Nurse-Midwives to identify barriers to providing care for perinatal Opioid Use Disorder, and for developing implementation strategies to decrease barriers to care.

Projects will run through 2026.

Over \$2M Awarded to Support Healthy Food Access Programs Statewide

A nationwide survey completed by Michigan State University stated that 31 percent of people report that the pandemic has affected their ability to feed their families. Several risk factors of maternal mortality, such as hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, rely on a healthy diet; however, accessing healthy food can be a challenge for low-income pregnant individuals.



Maternal mortality and morbidity remain a serious issue in Pennsylvania and across the U.S. As the fiscal agent for federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, JHF released a healthy food access RFP in 2023 to distribute up to \$2.5 million in funding for short-term, food-as-medicine style projects.

Over \$4 million in requests were received. An external review committee of healthy food access experts from across Pennsylvania convened to review proposals and make funding recommendations. A total of 14 organizations were recommended for funding. Twelve organizations are currently under contract, with two more soon to be underway:

- Accion Communal Latinamericana de Montgomery County (ACLAMO) was awarded \$99,958 to support the Safe Haven Food Pantry and Community Closet, which provides holistic, bilingual, and bicultural programming, nutritious food, health education, and material resources to Latinx pregnant people and new families in Montgomery County. The intake process helps to identify intersectional needs and social determinants of health that can be addressed by CHWs, social workers, or other services.
- Adagio Health was awarded \$200,000 to expand food cupboards, along with a mobile unit that will expand the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program's reach in the five-county footprint of Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Indiana, and Lawrence counties beyond the brick-and-mortar offices. Additionally, teaching kitchens will be available for clients enrolled in 5-county WIC program prenatal patients at Adagio Health office locations in Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties.
- The Alliance for Health Equity was awarded \$200,000 to help low-income pregnant residents of Coatesville and new families in the area learn, choose, prepare, and consume healthy foods specific to their health needs by providing cooking classes, education, and food distribution. Patients at ChesPenn Health Services will receive prescriptions for personalized, healthy food items onsite and free of cost. In collaboration with the Chester County Food Bank, the program will also support educating participants regarding food preparation from a nutritionist.
- Allegheny Health Network was awarded \$195,274 to increase impact related to maternal nutrition and food insecurity support through a collaboration with the AHN Healthy Food Centers. Doulas/CHWs will be trained to provide culturally appropriate, basic maternal nutrition education to pregnant and postpartum clients during home visits and appointments on an ongoing basis. Through this project, Doulas/CHWs will learn to recognize and

address food insecurity and nutrition-related concerns during their encounters through screening assessments and informal conversation and act accordingly by providing tailored food boxes to their clients.

- Chester County Food Bank was awarded \$97,685 to expand its current Fruit and Vegetable Prescription program for Chester County families enrolled in WIC. The program provides eligible families with a prescription card that can be used at the Fresh2You Mobile Market during the summer and fall months, in addition to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes during the winter months, and year-round educational workshops and recipes. Participants will be enrolled during pregnancy or early postpartum and the prescription will end at 12 months postpartum when their other WIC benefits have expired.
- Family Health Council of Central PA was awarded \$52,076 to provide targeted education by a WIC nutritionist and expand the existing "Farmer's Market Dollars" program, which will ensure the continued availability of a Farmer's Market Nutrition Program-voucher produce match for WIC clients who are pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum and expand healthy food access for at least 330 people each year.
- Fayette County Community Action Agency was awarded \$200,000 to provide monthly cooking classes to low-income pregnant people and new families in Fayette County. Classes will teach food preparation and provide participants with nutritional bags filled with fruits and vegetables. Additionally, participants will receive Farmer's Market Vouchers that are redeemable at the on-site Farmer's Market.
- The Food Trust was awarded \$200,000 to expand its Food Bucks Rx produce prescription program, which partners with Philadelphia-based healthcare partners to offer eligible patients prescription coupons or cards to be redeemed for fresh fruits and vegetables at nearby supermarkets, corner stores, and farmers markets. Free nutrition education will be offered in two modes, virtually and in-person. Additionally, funding will support 4-6 cooking workshops, with options to engage children alongside their caregivers. The workshops are designed to engage participants in preparing healthy meals, meal planning on a budget, and eating a nutrient-rich diet.
- Helping Harvest was awarded \$200,000 to provide prescription food boxes and education to food-insecure pregnant and postpartum people living in Berks or Schuylkill Counties through a partnership with Berks Community Health Center, in addition to supporting SNAP enrollment. Program expansion will also involve these services for patients at obstetrician and pediatrician practices within Tower Health, Penn State Health - St. Joseph's, St. Luke's, Lehigh Valley Health Network, as well as local WIC offices, Nurse-Family Partnership, and others in their service area.
- MANNA was awarded \$200,000 to expand its gestational diabetes food delivery for pregnant clients to serve 60 clients in North Philadelphia by providing 36 weeks of home-delivered, medically tailored meals, including two months postpartum, in addition to providing nutritional counseling and other nutrition education. Participants will be identified by Einstein Healthcare Network and co-enrolled in their Diabetes in Pregnant Management Program, which provides weekly telehealth visits.
- United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey was awarded \$197,448 to launch a pilot wraparound "Food is Medicine" program that provides comprehensive,

neighbor-centric, and tailored food benefits and nutrition counseling to pregnant people with gestational diabetes in Philadelphia. Participants will have the option to choose from home-delivered medically tailored meals, healthy non-tailored meals, grocery boxes, and food vouchers. The program will be implemented through the Philadelphia Partnership for Nutrition and Health, which includes United Way, MANNA, Philabundance, Jefferson Health Plan/Health Partners Plans, Jefferson, and Temple.

- York County Food Bank was awarded \$200,000 to partner with Family First Health to identify 100 food-insecure, low-income pregnant people and their families each month. Participants will then be referred to York County Food Bank's Online Pantry Program, where they will be able to order food boxes, along with recipes, nutrition education, and additional community resources.

Projects will run through 2026.

JHF Grants State Funds to Philadelphia's Maternal Mortality Review Committee to Reduce Maternal Deaths

Many states, including Pennsylvania, have formed Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs) to analyze maternal deaths within the state and determine their causes. The committees can be a valuable tool to not only identify root causes but to structure interventions based on those causes. In response to the ongoing maternal mortality crisis, the City of Philadelphia established the first county-level MMRC in 2010.



JHF received \$200,000 of federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to support MMRCs in Pennsylvania. Funding was intended to support grassroots, on-the-ground efforts to address maternal mortality and morbidity by implementing recommendations made by existing PA MMRCs and to create a replicable model for other jurisdictions to follow.

In early 2024, JHF entered into an agreement with the City of Philadelphia to support the implementation arm of the Philadelphia MMRC, Organized Voices for Action (OVA). OVA's mission is to channel recommendations from MMRC into actionable citywide strategies to reduce maternal deaths and advance the health and well-being of childbearing individuals. With this funding, the OVA intends to:

- Reduce maternal mortality in Philadelphia, particularly deaths due to drug overdose and pregnancy-related complications;
- Implement evidence-based interventions to tackle the leading causes of maternal mortality; and

- Engage community voices and integrate their solutions into policies and programs.

This work will be accomplished over two years by establishing and enhancing implementation teams, conducting training, investing in community-based initiatives, developing a more user-friendly BirthJustice Philly website, and publishing the MMRC report.

PA Senator Jay Costa Joins County and Healthcare Leaders at Teen Mental Health Advisory Meeting

Pennsylvania Senator Jay Costa was joined by Allegheny County healthcare officials and representatives of Pittsburgh region's healthcare community during the Teen Mental Health Advisory meeting on April 16 to discuss potential ways that collaboration could occur to support teen mental health.

Joining Costa were Jewel Denne, assistant deputy director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services; Dr. Alin Severance, medical director of behavioral health services for the UPMC Health Plan; Sherry Shaffer, chief operating officer and chief government programs officer for Community Care Behavioral Health, and Donna Cooper, executive director of Children First. Each spoke to the barriers teens face when seeking support and possible avenues for collaboration, in terms of providing services and developing a workforce.



Senator Jay Costa discusses teen mental health during advisory meeting at JHF.

The meeting was grounded in what JHF and its partners have learned about approaches to engage teens and families to promote mental health while involving a community-based workforce in response to these challenges.

Costa stressed the importance of building a statewide coalition and a plan to expand and amplify the reach of all the organizations at the meeting table, as well as many others in the region and the state. Meeting participants also discussed state-level funding opportunities, support for services, and community-based organizations, as well as the challenges of recruiting and retaining staff. Advisory Committee Chair Danny Rosen thanked the speakers and added that Sen. Costa “sends us a tremendous message” about bringing voices to Harrisburg to advocate on behalf of those working for and with teens to advance care in mental health.

Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative Shares Its Legislative Agenda with Harrisburg Leaders

The Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative (PHFC) held its spring policy meeting with state legislators and administrative officials on April 8 in Harrisburg. Twelve members from the PHFC, a statewide network of 22 health foundations across the state, focused on five areas:

- Address the workforce shortages in Pennsylvania across the continuum of care.
- Advance maternal and child health policy recommendations to sustain a perinatal behavioral health access and consultation program, build a diverse perinatal workforce, and increase and streamline enrollment in WIC.
- Develop a full behavioral health crisis continuum to support 988.
- Streamline Medical Assistance renewals through the *Ex Parte* redetermination process.
- Support Medical Assistance flexibility and expansion, including affordable housing, expansion of continuous eligibility for children, youth mental health services and supports, re-entry prison benefits, and restored dental benefits for adults.



Members of the PHFC meet with Representative Dan Frankel.

The PHFC members met with several legislators, including Rep. Schlossberg, co-chair of the Mental Health Caucus; Senator Judy Ward, chair of Aging & Youth and Vice Chair of Health & Human Services; Rep. Dan Frankel, Majority Chair of the House Health Committee; Akbar Hossain, Secretary of Policy and Planning; Meghna Patel, Deputy Secretary; Rep. La'Tasha Mayes, Rep. Gina Curry, and Rep. Morgan Cephias, co-chairs of the Black Maternal Health Caucus; and staff for Senator Patrick Stefano, Majority Chair of Professional Licensure Committee.

JHF Staff Present Dementia Friends at PA Department of Aging's First Conference for Volunteers

In early April, JHF staff members Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L, and Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, presented a Dementia Friends information session to 200 volunteers at the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's 2024 Aging Network Volunteer Conference. Bonenberger and Perry co-lead Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania, a program of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation that is supported by the Department of Aging.

This was the first time the Department held a conference for its 11,000 Aging Services volunteers who support multiple services for older adults through Pennsylvania's 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Collectively these volunteers



Stacie Bonenberger, left, and Anneliese Perry at the 2024 Aging Network Volunteer Conference.

spend 156,000 hours of service every year by supporting Senior Community Centers and Family Caregiver Support Programs, delivering meals to older adults living at home, and more, [according to a Department press release](#). The 200 attendees spent the 3-day conference in Bethlehem attending various educational workshops and sessions as well as a Volunteer Recognition Dinner hosted by the Department's Secretary Jason Kavulich.

HIV Outreach Workers Convene in Philadelphia for Bi-Annual Learning Session

Twenty-two outreach workers from 11 HIV service organizations across the Commonwealth gathered in Philadelphia on April 4 for a MAI Learning Session facilitated by the JHF. This is the second in-person, statewide learning session offered since the COVID-19 pandemic, and participants were enthusiastic about the opportunity to network and share strategies for successful outreach to individuals in need of medical care. Participants shared challenges and strategies for meeting the needs of newly arrived immigrants, previously incarcerated individuals, pregnant women, and youth transitioning to adult care.



Jen Condel facilitates a group activity at the MAI learning session.

The session also included a presentation from the Philadelphia FIGHT Project TEACH (Treatment Education Activists Combating HIV) team, including Teresa Sullivan, Steven Johnson, and a team of peer educators. The program trains people living with HIV in the basics of secondary prevention and ways to communicate as peer educators and activists, and it has been adapted into education programs that meet the needs of previously incarcerated individuals, youth, women, the Latino population, and family members. Participants then had the opportunity to share their strategies for health education and strategies for engaging peers in their programs.

Spring CQEL Meeting Showcases New Leadership, Research on Palliative Care Consults

The Coalition for Quality at the End of Life convened for its first meeting of the year on April 9 via Zoom. JHF COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zions, MBA, kicked off the spring meeting with an appreciation of outgoing CQEL co-lead Robert Arnold, MD, who has departed UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh and taken a new role at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Dr. Arnold had a profound influence on JHF's End of Life work, and his support of the Foundation's initiatives and the next generation of palliative care/end-of-life practitioners locally will be missed.

Zions welcomed the new CQEL co-leads: Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA, VP and executive medical director of Enterprise Palliative



Katherine Courtright, MD, MSHP (top left), Jane Schell, MD (top right), and Kathleen Unroe, MD, MHA, MS, participate in a panel discussion on serious illness research.

Care Strategy and Implementation at Highmark Health, and Jane Schell, MD, assistant professor of Nephrology and Palliative Care at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC Health System and section chief of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics at the University of Pittsburgh, join Zionts and JHF Medical Advisor Judith Black, MD, MHA, in leading the Coalition going forward.

Inspired by last fall's National Academies [workshop on serious illness care research](#), the meeting featured updates on palliative care research in long-term care and hospital settings. Kathleen Unroe, MD, MHA, MS, associate professor of Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, research scientist at the Indiana University Center for Aging Research, and founder and executive officer of Probari, Inc., presented her research on strategies to address the unmet palliative care needs of individuals living in nursing homes. Katherine Courtright, MD, MSHP, assistant professor of medicine and core faculty in the Palliative and Advanced Illness Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, shared results of a randomized trial of default palliative care consultations for seriously ill hospitalized patients. Following the presentations, Dr. Schell led the speakers in a panel discussion centered on the common themes arising from their work. Both presentations highlighted the importance of incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data when conducting serious illness research.

Alexander Nesbitt, MD, palliative care physician at UPMC Susquehanna Health Supportive and Palliative Care, shared an update on POLST legislation. Dr. Nesbitt stressed the importance of advancing SB 631, POLST legislation introduced by Senator Gene Yaw last year, and encouraged those who can to write letters of support for the bill.

JHF Staff Present at Annual Conference for PA Association for Directors of Nursing Administration

The Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration (PADONA) held its annual conference in early April in Hershey, PA, where several JHF staff members gave presentations on its long-term care initiatives. PADONA serves hundreds of directors of nursing who work in Pennsylvania's long-term care sector by providing continuing education courses, scholarships, and more.

Maureen Saxon-Gioia, MSHSA, BSN, RN, nurse project manager, and Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, CECM, program manager, led a session on the PA Teaching Nursing Home Collaborative alongside two directors of nursing who partner with the initiative, Kim Ratliff, BSN, RN, CNDLTC from Wesley Enhanced Living Main Line and Taylor McMahon, RN from Presbyterian Senior Care The Willows. Their talk focused on how directors of nursing could implement the Age-Friendly Health Systems' 4Ms framework to improve care for their residents and enhance clinical rotations for nursing students to bolster workforce



Pictured from left to right: Taylor McMahon, Maureen Saxon-Gioia, Nancy Zionts, Kim Ratliff, and Brian Stever.

recruitment. JHF's COO and chief program officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, held a similar panel on Age-Friendly Health Systems and the work of the Teaching Nursing Home.

Zionts also participated in a panel discussion about the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Learning Network with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Service Office of Long-Term Living's Chief Medical Officer Larry Appel, MD, SFMH, and its Director of Quality Assurance and Program Analytics Jill Vovakes, MHA. The Learning Network is managed by JHF and provides weekly, 1-hour webinars to help advance nursing home staff's knowledge and improve the quality of care.

JHF Staffer Hazell Azzer Receives 2024 Bright Young People Award

[Hazell Azzer](#), [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#)'s Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, has been selected as one of Allies for Health and Wellbeing's 2024 Bright Young People. Hazell will be honored at their annual fundraising gala, the Free for All, on Friday, May 3.

The theme for the evening is Night of a Thousand Divas: The 2024 Free for All. During the event, Allies will honor their 2024 Kerry Stoner Award recipient and a constellation of Bright Young People. The Kerry Stoner Award is presented annually by Allies to someone who has shown commitment to Stoner's legacy and vision. Stoner was one of the founders of the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and died of complications of AIDS in 1993. Now in its third year, Allies' Bright Young People program recognizes people who are making a real and tangible difference in our community and working toward a bright future, particularly in the realm of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Bright Young People are making their mark through their art, their careers, and their activism.



JHF is pleased to support the event and to celebrate Hazell as a Bright Young Person.

Aging & HIV/AIDS Teams Renew Credentials for Care of LGBTQ+ Older Adults

JHF's Aging and HIV/AIDS teams were recently re-credentialed by SAGECare, the training division of the nation's largest advocacy and services organization for LGBTQ+ older adults SAGE. Staff completed online updated trainings that covered how to prevent bias and create inclusive services for LGBTQ+ older adults, including how to resolve conflicts and create policies that ensure individuals feel respected and safe. The teams will apply the training's lessons to improve the programs for the populations they serve, which increasingly overlap as aging services engage a growing number of people living with HIV/AIDS. SAGECare [recently announced](#) they had credentialed



more than 250,000 participants across the county via their training and consulting services, further reflecting this shift.

JHF Board Invites Perspectives from New Board Members

During JHF's April 1 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the spotlight was placed on new faces on the JHF and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) Boards to learn how their work and insights could help advance the JHF focus areas.

Members discussed engagement, how their work drew them to accept board memberships and the commitments they hope to bring in support of the Foundation's activist philanthropy.

Joining the Board of Trustees for a panel discussion were new Board members Debra Brodine, MHA, MBA, president of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital and Western Behavioral Health, and president of UPMC's Senior Services; Evan Rosenberg, market president and publisher of the Pittsburgh Business Times; and Ken Segel, MBA, CEO of Value Capture. Brodine serves on the Board and is its representative to Health Careers Futures. Rosenberg is on JHF's Board and Segel is new to the Board of PRHI.

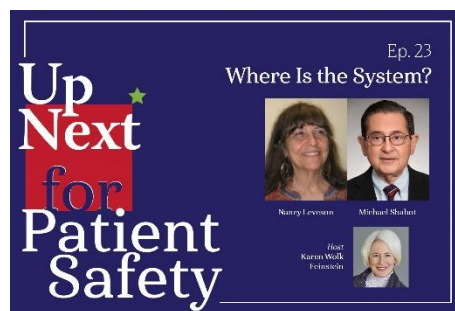
Segel discussed the history of Value Capture and the ways it continues to redefine safety. He praised the Foundation's efforts to raise awareness of the region's strengths in safety generally and patient safety. Brodine shared the many new focus areas for UPMC's work in senior care and behavioral health, emphasizing its advocacy orientation for those populations. Rosenberg drew on years of experience in communications to counsel the Foundation to "be vigilant to your audiences and reach them as often as you can."



Board members provide brief introductions during their first meeting.

New Up Next for Patient Safety Episode Asks, Where Is the System?

How can health care address the systemic challenges that have impeded progress on safety for decades? What lessons can be learned from other industries that have made safety a top priority? Join host Karen Wolk Feinstein and guests Nancy Leveson, professor, engineer, and systems safety expert, and Dr. Michael Shabot, physician, former healthcare executive, and expert in high-reliability healthcare safety and quality, for a thought-provoking discussion on how we can build a safer future for both patients and workers. [Listen to the episode here.](#)



Former NTSB Chair Chris Hart, Wife Visit JHF

[Christopher Hart](#) and his wife, LeeAnn, met with JHF staff during a visit to Pittsburgh on April 3. Hart, a lawyer, pilot, and former chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, is the founder of Hart Solutions LLC, where he works as a consultant to help improve transportation automation safety, workplace safety, and process safety in potentially hazardous industries. In 2023, he served on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Working Group on Patient Safety, which released its [recommendations to the President](#) last fall that included the creation of a National Patient Safety Team to oversee patient safety at the federal level. Hart currently serves on the board of The Joint Commission. LeeAnn, whose family hails from Pittsburgh, had a long career at the Federal Aviation Administration and shared about her current volunteer work in hospice and as an end-of-life doula. During the visit, JHF staff shared about the Foundation's history and focus areas, with a particular emphasis on patient safety initiatives and learnings from the recently held [Safety Innovation Summit](#). Hart shared his perspective on lessons from the transportation sector to advance safety in health care.



Pictured left to right: Robert Ferguson, LeeAnn Hart, Christopher Hart, Karen Feinstein, and Carolyn Byrnes.

JHF Staffer Takes the Stage in *The Abortion Monologues*

Women's reproductive rights remain front and center in the current election cycle, and on April 4, the National Council of Jewish Women Pittsburgh presented a powerful play centered on one of the most significant health issues facing women today. *The Abortion Monologues*, a play by Jane Cawthorne, was performed at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. JHF was among the sponsors, and JHF COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, participated in the production.



Nancy Zionts performs in the production of *The Abortion Monologues*.

The Abortion Monologues presents the stories of 18 women who share details of their lives and relationships and their experiences with abortion—a topic that remains taboo in the public sphere. The stories combine humor and heartbreak and leave the audience challenging their own assumptions and opinions. Zionts appeared as the final performer, portraying a woman living in a senior village reminiscing about her life as a nurse and as a woman who had an abortion before they were legal. The character urged young people to enjoy their lives and, ironically, their access to birth control and abortions—which are now under threat.

The event also included a conversation about the ongoing need to preserve and promote safe reproductive health care with emcee Natalie Bencivenga and CEO of NCJW Inc., Sheila Katz, CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women, Inc.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh Presents *Too Hot for July*, its Sixth Annual HIV Awareness and Testing Event

On Thursday May 30, 2024, AIDS Free Pittsburgh (AFP), True T Pgh, and partners will host its sixth annual HIV awareness and testing event, [Too Hot For July \(TH4J\)](#) at Allegheny Commons East Park from 4-10 p.m. The event will feature trailblazer and Tony Award winner Alex Newell, DJ sets and performances from local artists, free and confidential HIV/STI testing, a health fair and marketplace, ballroom-inspired battles, and more.



Free and open to the public, the biomedical awareness event partners will be offering testing and education, including Allegheny Health Network Positive Health Clinic, who will be offering HIV, STI, and Hepatitis C testing; Allies for Health and Wellbeing with HIV, STI, and Hepatitis C testing; Metro Community Health Center with HIV, STI, and Hepatitis C testing; and Macedonia FACE with HIV testing. The Allegheny County Health Department will be offering Monkeypox vaccines and Hepatitis C testing as well.

For many community and collaborative members, Too Hot for July continues to be a special space to gather, celebrate, and support each other. AFP and partners recognize that community building and sharing joy through activities like sharing food and dancing together are valuable and essential parts of any movement, including efforts to end the HIV epidemic.

Educating the public about HIV can be difficult due to lingering stigma and disparities in access to prevention tools and healthcare. Thanks to improved treatment, people with HIV can live long, healthy lives. Plus, powerful prevention tools — including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) — can practically eliminate transmission. Despite these successes, new HIV infections still occur at a steady annual rate and far too many people in Allegheny County still are not benefiting from HIV prevention and care.

In Allegheny County, racial and gender disparities continue to persist. In 2022, Black individuals had an incidence rate of HIV diagnoses 10 times higher than White individuals. Of new HIV diagnoses in 2022, 10 diagnoses, or 14%, were concurrent diagnoses of HIV and AIDS within 90 days. Though this rate is lower than in previous years, these late diagnoses represent multiple missed opportunities to diagnose and treat HIV infection and to prevent transmission. Transgender people, particularly transgender women of color, are heavily affected by HIV due to societal stigma and barriers to care. AFP is on a mission to improve social determinants of health and to celebrate the advancements in HIV prevention and care that can end the HIV epidemic for all communities impacted.

The featured performer at this year's event is Alex Newell will take the stage at 7:30pm. First garnering attention on the screen in Fox's critically acclaimed series *Glee* as a transgender student, Wade "Unique" Adams. Breaking barriers and challenging gender norms at a time when

the conversation around gender identity was not widely accepted, Alex has remained one of the leaders in the quest for equality. 2023 TIME Magazine Breakthrough of the Year Newell made history in 2023 as the first nonbinary-identifying actor to receive a Tony nomination for “Best Featured Actor” for their role as “Lulu” in Broadway’s *Shucked*. Newell has received several award nominations including Critic’s Choice, Gold Derby, Screen Actors Guild, and Hollywood Critics Association. While part of the cast of “Once on This Island” Newell earned a Grammy nomination for “Best Musical Theater Album” and won a Tony for “Best Revival of a Musical.”

The hosts for the evening are Rian “Outloud” Lois, Wadria Taylor, and Joey Young. The DJs for the night are Huny XO, Maya Universe, and Pillz Doe. Entertainment will be provided by Reverend Deryck Tines, 412 Step, and members of the True T Art Group (TAG) including AmunRay, Ayana Sade, Aziaha Robinson, Andraya Rand-Mathis, Jasmine Stothers, Lys Scott, Manny Dibiachi, Xopher James. The event will include ballroom-inspired battles with cash prizes. Spirit Pgh will be providing a cash bar. Food trucks include Sooo Delicious, El Chucho, Community Kitchen, Boonseek, and Popworld.

Six Patient Safety Technology Challenge-Sponsored Events Announce Competition Winners

The Patient Safety Technology Challenge announced the winners of six recently sponsored events.

The 2024 Cornell Health Hackathon was an in-person event from March 8-10 in New York City that brought together students from across degrees, majors, and schools. Weill Cornell Medicine invited local students from New York University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Columbia University, and the City University of New York, chartering a bus to bring students from Cornell’s campus upstate. The hackathon culminated in a project showcase to an audience of peers, mentors, and sponsors. A panel of judges including Frankie Hamilton, Hamid Khosrowshahi, Karen Santos, and Michael Wong selected winners and awarded \$10,000 to five winning teams.



Bench to Bedside winners presented with their award. Pictured from left to right: Amanda Lematty (organizer), Josh Whiting, Diego Perez, Ziaul Karim, Taylor Yseth, Mike Woodruff (judge), Alicia Du, and McHale Anderson. (Photo courtesy of Bench to Bedside)

Current Care won the \$3,000 Grand Prize for their device to prevent pressure ulcers through electrical muscle stimulation. Team members included: Antranig Baghdassarian, Leah Lackey, Andrew Lee, Brianna Leung, Johnson Liu, and Justin Liu. Team Rocket won the Best Use of AI Prize of \$2,500 for their innovation, RocketHealth. Team members included: Sally Zhao, Stephanie Nguyen, An Tran, Khanh Do, Dany Alkurdi, and Ferdinand Gross. RocketHealth is a co-pilot for home health nurses. It works to counter adverse medical effects and provide medication reconciliation and automation. Cedar won the \$2,500 Most Innovative Solution Prize for their Portable Ultrasound Imager for Carotid Artery Stenosis. Cedar team members included: Ethan Tse, Claire Zhang, Allen Dinh, Reem, and Danny Nguyen.

Femnostics won the Most Market Ready Prize of \$1,500 for addressing female reproductive health issues, specifically vaginal infections. Femnostics team members included: Antonia Li, Urmila Sehrawat, Bhavishya Agarwal, Edward Kim, Justin Xiang, and Rebecca Wang. IPVision won the \$500 prize for the project with the most potential impact. Their idea was to transform intimate partner violence (IPV) healthcare by leveraging AI to detect cases and provide personalized treatment in acute care settings. Team members included: Lina Chihoub, Emily Leventhal, Raquel Castromonte, Mariam Rizvi, Elizabeth Madamitola,, and Keshika Gopinathan.

Utah's premier healthcare innovation competition, Bench to Bedside (B2B), hosted by the University of Utah Health's Center for Medical Innovation partnered with the Patient Safety Technology Challenge for the second year in a row to emphasize patient safety by encouraging students to solve one of the five leading patient safety challenges facing health care delivery with a prize of \$10,000 offered to the team that developed the best tech-enabled solution. The program kicked off in September and patient safety experts were invited to "Networking with Experts" events in November 2023 and February 2024 to link students with subject matter experts. The final submission date was March 24, and the B2B Competition Night took place at the Utah State Capital building in Salt Lake City on April 8, 2024. Judges David Classen, Jason Funderburk, Jon White, and Mike Woodruff selected the winning team.

Clock Code won the \$10,000 prize at B2B for their device to optimize care and communication among code team members in the setting of a cardiac arrest. This device aims to improve patient survival by improving communication. Team members included University of Utah students: Ziaul Karim, Josh Whiting, Diego Perez, and Alicia Du.

Healthcare Hackathon with AI (H2AI), hosted Georgetown University, was a 36-hour hackathon held April 12-14. H2AI invited clinicians, students, and industry partners in the DMV area (Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia). The \$2,500 prize for the best innovation in patient safety was judged by Paulie Jesukiewicz, Maureen Robbins, and Jenna Williams-Bader. went to Nexuscare. NexusCare provides doctors with one-click access to geriatric research in their EHR system. Team members include Inara Jalisi, Molly Li, Mohammad Qader, Bradley Hu, and Javier Arana.

CatHacks, hosted by the University of Kentucky, held its 10th annual hackathon beginning April 12th. CatHacks is proud to be the first national college hackathon in the state of Kentucky. Karen Curtiss judged the event; MediCheck won the grand prize for the best tech-enabled patient safety solution and Dave the Passive Medical Assistant received 2nd prize. MediCheck created a system to augment and enhance drug selection safety by providing an additional check. Team members included: Matthew Wallen, Samyak Piya, and Aastha Bhatt.

LA Hacks, Southern California's largest hackathon with 1,000 students from across the country participating, was hosted by UCLA on April 19-21, the winning team received PS5s for each team member. The winning team MediBuddy was selected by judges Phil Martie and Onike Williams. MediBuddy leverages machine learning models, to analyze symptoms, body measurements, and more inputs by doctors to generate accurate, personalized suggestions on diagnoses and treatments based on previous case data. Team members included: Choidorj Bayarkhuu, primary frontend developer studying computer science at UCLA; Arnav Roy, primary backend logic developer, machine learning studying computer science at UCLA; Stanley Sha, backend Flask

developer and presentation contributor studying computer science at UCI; and Emma Wu, data processing, secondary front-end developer, and presentation lead statistics and data science at UCLA.

Purdue University's Design and Innovation Competition finale took place on April 26, where three finalist teams were selected from a cohort of 11 to pitch and win a total of \$4,000 in prize money. The three teams had 10 minutes to pitch their innovative tech-enabled patient safety solutions to a panel of diverse judges including nurses from the medtech industry, an anesthesiologist, and professors from Purdue representing technology leadership and innovation as well as industrial design. Judges recruited by PRHI included Joseph Anderson, Pamela Parker, and Heather Ball. The teams and their respective prizes were: Pillendar, a configurable pillbox that can provide cues to users based on their needs along with an accompanying app that acts as a mediator between patients and their healthcare team, which won \$2,500; Scout, an innovative device to improve workflow efficiency during high-stress situations through the use of an intuitive hands-free vein visualizer, won \$1,000; and Nebu, an innovative nebulizer for asthmatic patients that helps reduce the number of patients harmed from complications, won \$500.

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](#).

Patient Safety Fellowship Accepting Applications Until May 6

Are you interested in exploring artificial intelligence and cutting-edge technology to revolutionize safety in health care? Applications are still open to apply for the Patient Safety Fellowship hosted by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. The 20th edition of the fellowship will explore the intersection of AI, safety science, and lessons from other industries to improve healthcare outcomes.



Graduate students and young professionals who are interested in AI, safety, health care innovation, and digital transformation should apply by May 6. Application and details [available here](#).

Patient Safety Speaking Engagements Highlight the Work of NPSB, Advocacy Coalition Members

Patient safety advocacy efforts took center stage this month, as members of the National Patient Safety Board Advocacy Coalition, Patients for Patient Safety US, presented at two conferences to share the exciting efforts to address harm in health care and bring the patient voice into patient safety.

At the 6th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety in Chile, Sir Liam Donaldson, the World Health Organization envoy for Patient Safety; Hardeep Singh, MD, an international expert on diagnostic safety; and Sue Sheridan, founding member of Patients for Patient Safety-US, participated in a plenary on diagnostic safety calling on all Ministers to prioritize diagnostic safety and to engage patients and families in the co-production of policies, programs and strategies to improve timeliness and accuracy of diagnosis. Sheridan also shared about advocacy for the [National Patient Safety Board](#).



Sue Sheridan and Dr. Hardeep Singh present at the 6th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety.

Marty Hatlie, JD, co-founder of Patients for Patient Safety US, with Suz Schrandt, JD, founder, CEO, and chief patient advocate of ExPPect, presented on [Project PIVOT](#) at the 2024 CMS Quality Conference held April 8-10 in Baltimore. The session informed and engaged participants in the development of Project PIVOT, highlighting the patient-led approach to identify and prioritize patient-reported measures of safety, diagnosis, and bias.

Patients for Patient Safety US is launching Project PIVOT (Patients Involved in deVeloping Outcomes Together) on September 16. Project PIVOT is a novel initiative designed to advance the implementation of patient-centered care through incorporation of data on the patient-reported experience and patient-reported outcomes measures to improve patient safety, diagnostic accuracy, and equity in health care. Project PIVOT will provide an opportunity for patients and patient and consumer organizations to collaborate with national and international experts through in-person and virtual convenings to identify and prioritize patient-centered experiences and outcomes related to patient safety, diagnostic accuracy, and equity.

JHF has provided funding to support Project PIVOT, along with The John A. Hartford Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

The Jewish Chronicle Highlights the Work of the Death & Dying Fellowship

The Jewish Chronicle recently highlighted JHF's Death & Dying Fellowship, its work to help medical professionals and patients address challenging topics at the end of life more effectively, and the fellowship's impact on physicians, nurses, social workers, and other healthcare professionals. Read the article [here](#).



Remembering Jim Roddey, Former JHF Board Member and Allegheny County's First Executive

JHF paid tribute to Jim Roddey, a business executive and community leader, at its first Board meeting of 2024, recognizing his humor, dedication to the community, and commitment to public service.

Jim served on the JHF Board from 1994-2000. Dr. Feinstein noted these were challenging times in the early years of JHF. Jim's sense of humor and keen strategic instincts were invaluable. Overall, his impact on the Foundation was immense, as was his impact on Pittsburgh.



Jim Roddey and Karen Wolk Feinstein.

"Jim came to our city to work on Pittsburgh Outdoor Advertising. He had previously worked with Ted Turner and, as I remember, told him there wasn't a future in cable TV. That, I assume, is why Jim had to leave Atlanta," remembers Karen Wolk Feinstein, JHF president and CEO. "A Texan who never lost his accent, Jim liked to tell us about his mother – who according to Jim—rode around on horseback well into her nineties shooting rattlesnakes."

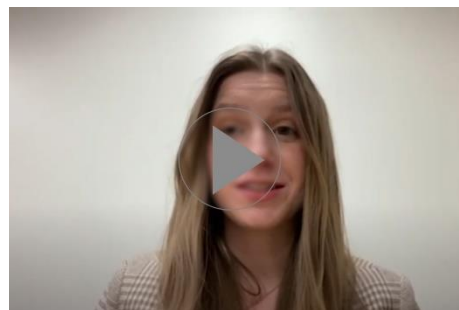
Although he built a good career in communications, he also engaged in politics. He worked on the amendment that changed the County Government from a three-person committee to a single County Executive. Then he ran for County Executive and won. He was the only Republican to do so to this day.

As County Executive, he engaged the Foundation in his pathbreaking work in revolutionizing local nursing homes, senior centers, and county parks.

"Jim loved Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh loved him back," said Dr. Feinstein. "He was the eternal and everywhere master of ceremonies where his jokes would often upstage even the best program. A likable, one-of-a-kind, loyal, and wickedly intelligent friend. He will be missed. He cannot be replaced."

Alumni Spotlight: Anna Solomon

Anna Solomon is a fifth-year student in the Duquesne University Physician Assistant Studies program who participated in the 2022 Patient Safety Fellowship. Anna is from West Deer, Pennsylvania. An active participant on campus, Anna served as President of her residence hall, Vice President of the Duquesne Student Alumni Association, and a member of the Honors College. During her time at Duquesne, Anna worked as an intern at the COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Pittsburgh's Hill District, where she learned about the effective delivery of community-based healthcare. In 2022, Anna was awarded the John G. Rangos Anatomy Prize for her paper on spinal epidural steroid injections. Anna graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and a minor in Public Health. Anna is currently on clinical rotations, where she participates in patient safety initiatives such as preventing falls and infections, conducting morbidity and mortality discussions, and advocating for the needs of patients and their families. Anna hopes to work as a neurosurgical physician assistant after graduation. [Watch now.](#)



Celebrating Geriatricians

JHF, with its longstanding focus on issues around the needs of our aging population, holds immense appreciation for the geriatricians who have contributed so much to our work. These uniquely specialized professionals demonstrate an unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for older adults, addressing their unique medical needs with compassion and expertise. We extend a special thank-you to Judy Black, MD, MHA; Susan Greenspan, MD; Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA; and Eric Rodriguez, MD, MPH, who have been long-time partners in our aging work. Their profound impact resonates deeply within the Foundation, as they embody our shared mission of promoting health and well-being among the aging population as well as supporting the learning needs of the next generation of professionals through JHF's educational programming.

As we usher in Older Americans Month this May, a time dedicated to honoring the resilience and wisdom of our aging community, we pay tribute to the esteemed individuals whose tireless efforts have shaped the landscape of geriatric care. As we reflect on the pivotal role aging experts play in advancing the mission and programs of JHF, we are honored to highlight the extraordinary contributions of three exceptional leaders whose unwavering commitment has inspired transformative change.

WHAMglobal Board Member Dr. Anne Newman Receives Two Prestigious Awards

Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) Board member Anne B. Newman, MD, MPH has received two prestigious awards for her decades-long research on aging and longevity. Dr. Newman is also a past member of JHF's Board of Trustees.

For her scholarly contributions to the epidemiology of aging and interventions for healthy aging, Dr. Newman has been honored with a 2024 Chancellor's Distinguished Award by University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Joan Gabel.



She was also honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Conference on Frailty and Sarcopenia Research. The award recognizes her contributions to understanding the life-course trajectories of muscle performance, physical functioning, and the onset of physical disability.

Dr. Newman is the UPMC Chair in Geroscience and a distinguished professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health. She currently serves as the clinical director for the University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Aging Institute and a professor of medicine and clinical and translational science. She has focused her work on the biology of aging in the muscle, and physical functioning. The research of Dr. Newman and her colleagues has found that the loss of muscle strength was triple the loss of muscle mass. Additionally, they are now learning that damage to specific biologic pathways during aging is accelerating the process.

An Appreciation: Palliative Care Champion Robert Arnold, MD

After 36 years of unparalleled contributions to palliative care education and practice in the region, Robert Arnold, MD, has departed his roles at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC, and is now serving as a professor in the Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Arnold has been a significant partner in JHF's end-of-life work for many years, and we take this opportunity to share reflections from those at the Foundation with whom he has worked most closely and influenced professionally and personally.



"Bob Arnold is a giant in the field of palliative care. Yet, he is consistently approachable, accessible, and never too busy to share his expertise across the community. He has an extraordinary gift for helping patients and families navigate the complexities of dealing with serious illness and for inspiring the next generation of practitioners to listen and be present for them during highly stressful times. He is a true champion for palliative care."

—**Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, JHF President and Chief Executive Officer**

"It is no exaggeration to say that Bob changed the nature and training of health professionals as it relates to palliative care and end of life in our community and beyond. He never saw or was limited by organizational boundaries, helping to build partnerships with providers from various systems and parts of the healthcare continuum. He has created enduring materials in the form of educational videos featuring conversations at end of life. He always said yes to participating in our Feinstein Death and Dying Fellowship—as a lead of speaker, a finale speaker, or both—and was never repetitive, always bringing fresh insights to the students. His approachable way of imparting his experiences and skills to students and fellow healthcare professionals, with humor and humility, will stay with me."

—Nancy Zionts, MBA, JHF COO and Chief Program Officer



Robert Arnold, MD conducts an activity during the 2019 Death & Dying Fellowship finale.

"When I think of Bob, the words that come to mind are *compassionate, articulate, and always knowing the right questions to ask*. On a personal note, he helped me, as he did so many others, learn how to improve my conversations with the seriously ill. From a health system standpoint, he worked across systems to advocate for good palliative care and expanding palliative services in Western Pennsylvania, and this was reflected through his co-leadership of the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life, as well."

—Judith Black, MD, MHA, JHF Medical Advisor

Dr. Neil Resnick Pioneers Geriatric Care

Neil Resnick, MD got his start in the field of geriatric health serendipitously.

Dr. Resnick received a bachelor's degree from Yale University and graduated from Stanford University School of Medicine. He did his internship and residency at Harvard Medical School.

At that time, he and his wife, Dr. Susan Greenspan (who would become an international authority on osteoporosis and direct both the Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Center and the Bone Health Program at Magee Women's Hospital) were two years out of sync in their medical training. Looking to "find something to do" for two years until her training was complete, he found geriatrics.

"I wanted additional clinical training, but since I had to be in Boston and didn't want to be an "organ" specialist, geriatrics was one of the only available options. Although it was a new field in the U.S., demographics suggested that geriatrics training would be valuable even if I didn't end up a geriatrician," Dr. Resnick said. "So I dove into the fellowship--and to my surprise, I loved it."



He was intrigued by his patients. Their stories, life lessons, and advice appealed to his interest in history. Their existential and ethical issues were those he'd wrestled with as a philosophy major in college, and the complexity of their medical and psychosocial issues offered a challenge and required a multidisciplinary, team-based approach.

"What was not to like?" Dr. Resnick said enthusiastically. "But the biggest surprise was that geriatrics expertise enabled me to alleviate and often even eliminate problems that had proved so refractory to strategies I'd been taught for younger patients. For that, my older patients were as grateful as I was."

Dr. Resnick's work to eliminate urinary incontinence in nursing home residents was historic and inspired by a patient named Joe. An immigrant, Joe had turned his trade as a cobbler in "the old country" into a successful shoe business in America. Now 89 and a widower with several chronic conditions, he'd moved into a nursing home and was one of the patients assigned to Resnick in his first month of Fellowship.

Throughout the previous year, Joe had become less sociable and family visits had become infrequent. When Dr. Resnick met him, Joe mentioned the work of Dr. Jack Kevorkian and asked that Resnick help him to end his life. After some probing, Joe divulged the source of his despair: he'd become incontinent (UI). His grandchildren had told him he smelled and stopped visiting. The odor had also caused him to isolate himself from other residents.

Knowing little about UI, but inspired by the optimism of his new field, Resnick asked Joe to give him a chance to learn more, hoping that it might be treatable. Joe agreed, the approach worked, and Dr. Resnick's trajectory was forever changed, along with his patient's quality of life.

"The transformation in his outlook was dramatic. He became more interactive with the other residents. He was overjoyed when his grandchildren resumed their visits and even took him out to dinner. I was elated. But I was also dismayed by the limited and conflicting information on UI, particularly in older adults, and wondered if I could somehow cut through the chaos in a way that might simplify and systematize the approach and maybe even enhance its efficacy," Dr. Resnick said.

To complete the research requirement of his fellowship, Dr. Resnick immersed himself in investigating UI. He immediately encountered several challenges, from having to undergo additional urological training when he was unable to find a urologist willing to serve a key role in his project, to having to respond to a firestorm when his grant application generated an ethical objection from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reviewers who felt that the study was both unnecessary (because they believed the cause of UI in older adults was already known) and posed an unjustifiable risk as it would subject patients to infection.

Resnick was ultimately able to address NIH's objections and convince it to fund the study, which led to substantial insights and the discovery of a new disease that affected primarily older patients. Dr. Resnick notes that the study concluded without a single serious adverse event.

His research continued, resulting in new understanding that facilitated a previously impossible non-invasive approach to the evaluation and treatment of UI in nursing home residents. It also allowed for the creation of the "Minimum Data Set," which is now utilized by every U.S. nursing home as

well as those in dozens of other countries. His UI experience also enabled him to apply his innovative approach to other common geriatric conditions, including osteoporosis, falls, and delirium, and even more so to the development of a proactive, pre-emptive, team-based strategy to prevent complications and adverse events in acutely hospitalized patients.

"In the process, we learned what so many others before us had also learned: change is not easy. But the effort has definitely been worth it," Resnick said.

Dr. Resnick did not realize at the time that his work on finding a cure for incontinence would determine the leadership of the newly formed JHF. Dr. Feinstein had declined an offer to serve as JHF's first executive because, as a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University and a Senior Vice President at the United Way, she felt she could make a bigger impact outside of philanthropy. Then she saw the Annual Report of the Commonwealth Fund that featured the work of Drs. Resnick and John W. Rowe in curing incontinence. In that moment, she changed her opinion of what health foundations could accomplish. Little did she know that Dr. Resnick would soon move to Pittsburgh and become a good friend and professional colleague.

For nearly 25 years, Dr. Resnick has served as the chief of Geriatrics at UPMC, leading one of the country's largest and most innovative geriatrics programs with more board-certified geriatricians than nearly any program, a wide array of senior services, and an extensive research portfolio. He is also the Thomas Detre Endowed Chair in Gerontology and Geriatrics at the University of Pittsburgh and is a professor of Medicine and Clinical/Translational Science.

In addition to its traditional research in geriatrics, his Geriatrics Division is known for developing several innovative care models, including the first *geriatric-centered* "patient-centered medical home" for the ambulatory setting, the "Staying at Home" program for home-bound patients, and a fracture-liaison program for patients with acute fractures to prevent a subsequent one. The Division also devised the RAVEN (Reducing Avoidable Hospitalizations using Evidence-based Interventions for Nursing Facility Residents) model for nursing home patients, which was funded by Medicare's Innovation Center, as well as a telehealth model funded by UPMC, which evolved into a successful startup company (Curavi). Additionally, Dr. Resnick and his team showed that "gerontifying" a hospital substantially reduced complications, falls, delirium, readmissions, and costs, and they also devised a population-based model for a health plan (Golden Care). Although the models differed in their details, each was based on the same premises: that optimal geriatric care requires anticipating problems and preventing them, and that improved systems of care can help to accomplish this," Resnick said.

"I'm also tremendously proud of our faculty and staff's commitment to striving every day to provide the best personal care to patients in our community and region." He is also proud of the improvements the Division created in training for all medical students and residents, which includes innovative new "tracks" for trainees; the country's first interprofessional team-based course offered jointly to students from 10 different healthcare subspecialties; its partnership with General Medicine which enhanced training for all of UPMC's medical residents; and its Geriatrics Updates CME Course, which annually attracts hundreds of practicing clinicians from more than 20 states and even overseas, and which was recognized by a national award from the American Geriatrics Society.

Dr. Resnick notes that his generation of geriatric medicine practitioners broke important ground by dispelling many of the myths of aging, differentiating the changes brought on by aging from those of disease, discovering the underlying contributors to many geriatric illnesses, defining geriatric syndromes, and demonstrating that the same symptoms seen in younger patients were often due to different causes and required different approaches for older patients.

"We also learned that optimal care of older patients must be patient-centered and congruent with their values and goals; that cure might be less important than comfort; that the expertise of a team of non-physicians was invaluable in addressing the multifaceted challenges; and that such an approach could greatly improve outcomes, often at lower cost and with fewer adverse effects," Dr. Resnick said.

"Now we're looking to the next generation to build on these lessons and to use the breathtaking advances in molecular biology, computer imaging, gene editing, machine learning, and artificial intelligence to generate breakthroughs in our fundamental understanding of aging, as well as the causes and treatments for Alzheimer's, cancer, cardiovascular disease, impaired immunity, and chronic disease," Resnick said.

Unfortunately, although geriatricians' job satisfaction is among the highest of 50 medical subspecialties, its pipeline is among the weakest. Dr. Resnick attributes this in part to the challenges affecting all of medicine, including moral injury and burnout, as well as the lower compensation paid to primary care physicians, which is less for geriatricians despite their additional training.

"It's especially sad because the field itself is so rewarding. Yet because geriatricians are so well trained to address the growing pressures to improve the efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness of geriatric care, I'm optimistic that we're heading into a golden era for geriatrics," Resnick said.

Dr. Resnick is currently a member of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative Board and has previously served as a Board member of JHF. Having worked with JHF since his arrival in Pittsburgh, he underscores how important JHF has been to the advancement of geriatric care. "Much of the work mentioned earlier would not have been possible without the visionary and financial support of the leadership of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. In addition, their brilliant, out-of-the-box thinking, endless optimism and energy, and "can-do" – actually "must do" – approach has made them an inspirational "force of nature" in effecting change," Resnick said.

As he. Resnick looks to the future, his hope for the field is a better understanding of and treatment for dementia and frailty, and the full burgeoning of the nascent field of geroscience, as insights into the causes of aging may facilitate much more fundamental interventions for most of the illnesses of aging and contribute substantially to improved "healthspan."

JHF Staff Receives Influx of Talent During Take Your Kids to Work Day



Pictured from left to right: Walker, son of JHF Controller Lindsey Kirstatter Hartle; Asher, son of JHF Program Associate Ashlee Carter; Abigail, daughter of Jennifer Condel, manager, lean healthcare strategy and implementation, PRHI; and Madeleine and Penelope, daughters of JHF Chief Communication Officer Scotland Huber.