

CENTER FOR 
Health Services Research

HIGHLIGHTS 2020 - 2021

Institute for Medicine
and Public Health

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

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



Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, SFHM, FACP

Professor of Medicine

Director, Center for Health Services Research

Director, Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research

The **Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research**, a critical component of the Vanderbilt Institute for Medicine and Public Health, brings together more than 200 scientists and other professionals from across the Vanderbilt community. The Center has an overall program emphasis on developing, implementing, and evaluating interdisciplinary solutions to improve health care delivery and health outcomes for patients, families, and the community.

Members of the Center perform research and advance knowledge to create systems which provide care that is safe, timely, effective, patient-centered, efficient, and equitable, as envisioned by the Institute of Medicine. During the last several years, we have expanded our research in population health, implementation science, data science, optimal use of health information technologies, pragmatic clinical trials, health equity, social determinants of health, and other key areas. Strong relationships across Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network (VHAN) greatly enhance our capacity to do research that is embedded in the real-world setting, both to generate new scientific evidence and translate that evidence into practice. We have also developed relationships with other organizations across the country and the world, in order to expand research and improve care nationally and internationally.

We continue to recruit and support trainees and faculty interested in health services and related research. In recent years, we have grown our training programs to support post-doctoral research fellows and junior faculty. The Center provides an ideal environment by facilitating collaboration and mentorship, and by providing educational activities, research space, grants management support, administrative support, biostatistical support, and services from our research support cores.

The Center strives to be a national and international leader in health services research, supporting interdisciplinary research and training in the learning health system to optimize the quality and value of health care delivery, and to improve patient and population health. Given the current complexities of the health care system and rapid transformation to create value-based health care, the role of the Center will remain essential in the years ahead. We remain dedicated to advancing research and health care delivery that improves the quality and equity of care for all.

At A Glance



**200 Faculty
and Trainees**



**>\$57 million
Annual Funding**



**1852 publications (2020-21)
601 in top quartile journals***



**40,000 sq. ft.
Shared Space**

The **Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research** engages more than 200 faculty and trainees from across Vanderbilt in research and training initiatives to improve health and health care delivery. Leading more than \$57 million in annual awarded funding, faculty represent diverse disciplines including clinical medicine, nursing, public health, informatics, social sciences, management sciences, and the humanities. Key research foci of the Center include clinical epidemiology and outcomes research; clinical improvement, quality, and implementation research; health economics and decision science; health promotion, disease prevention and management; behavioral health and health communication; pragmatic research and comparative effectiveness research; community health, and health policy. In 2020-2021, CHSR Scholars published 1852 peer-reviewed articles in 694 journals, including 601 articles in journals with impact factor >4.9.

The Center provides core services related to qualitative research, health communication, and improvement and implementation sciences. The Center also supports several federally-funded training programs for post-doctoral research fellows and junior faculty.

The Center was founded in 2000 and previously led by Dr. Robert Dittus (2000-2010) and Dr. Russell Rothman (2010-2020). Comprising more than 40,000 square feet of space at 2525 West End and the Nashville VA Medical Center, the Center provides the ideal environment within which interdisciplinary research can flourish. The Center houses a portion of the CHSR faculty and their affiliated research staff. Multiple large and small conference rooms, as well as virtual meeting platforms, are available to host research seminars, journal clubs, work-in-progress meetings, and research lab meetings. Break rooms and other gathering spaces facilitate investigators to meet and discuss their work. The Center also provides administrative support, grants management support, IT support, biostatistical support, and other services.

* Impact factor > 4.9

CHSR Faculty Services

Trainees and affiliated faculty (named CHSR Scholars) receive access to a broad array of services including priority access to CHSR Core Services, eligibility for vouchers, CHSR awards for outstanding publication or outstanding research, and invitations to CHSR social functions.

Core Services

- [Qualitative Research](#) (Dr. David Schlundt)
- [Vanderbilt Implementation and Quality Improvement \(VIQI\) Core](#) (Dr. Amanda Mixon)
- [Effective Health Communication](#) (Dr. Lindsay Mayberry)

Administrative

- [Space](#)
- [Research administrative support](#)
- [Grants management](#)
- [Outreach and advocacy](#)
- [Pilot funding resources](#)
- [Vouchers for Core Services](#)

Education and Seminars

- [CHSR Works in Progress](#)
- [Implementation Science Scholarly Series](#)
- [Biostatistics Clinic](#)
- [Biostatistics Consultation](#)

Supported Centers

Centers and Programs supported by The Center For Health Services Research



CENTER FOR
**Clinical Quality and
Implementation Research**

Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc



CENTER FOR
**Center for Improving the Public's Health
through Informatics**

Michael Matheny, MD, MS, MPH



CENTER FOR
Child Health Policy

Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS



CENTER FOR
Asthma Research

Tina Hartert, MD, MPH



CENTER FOR
Surgical Quality and Outcomes Research

David Penson, MD, MPH



CENTER FOR
Quality Aging

Sandra Simmons, PhD



VA Health Services Research Center

Harvey Murff, MD, MPH



CENTER FOR
Effective Health Communication

Kerri Cavanaugh, MD, MHS



**Critical Illness Dysfunction, and
Survivorship (CIBS) Center**

Wes Ely, MD, MPH

Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI



CENTER FOR
Health Behavior and Health Education

Tom Elasy, MD, MPH

Lindsay Mayberry, PhD



CENTER FOR
Emergency Care Research and Innovation

Alan Storrow, MD

Sean Collins, MD, MSc



Program in Rural Health Equity Research

Velma McBride Murry, PhD



CENTER FOR
Women's Health Research at Vanderbilt

Digna Velez Edwards, PhD



CENTER FOR
Musculoskeletal Research

Kristin Archer, PhD, DPT



**Vanderbilt Center for Tobacco,
Addiction and Lifestyle (ViTAL)**

Hilary Tindle, MD, MPH



CENTER FOR
Research and Innovation in System Safety

Matthew Weinger, MD



CENTER FOR
Health Economic Modeling

John Graves, PhD



CENTER FOR
Integrative Health Research

Kristin Archer, PhD, DPT

CHSR is actively engaged in supporting health equity research and collaboration.

1

CHSR Health Equity Research Grants – This new internal award mechanism supports research projects that advance equity in health care. The first proposal cycle solicited applications that address the use of race in diagnostic tests and clinical algorithms for risk assessment, diagnosis, or treatment. Our goal is to foster research aimed at eliminating racial bias in clinical practices that may result from the use of biased formulas and algorithms, a form of structural racism. The inaugural [awardees](#) are:

- Rameela Raman, PhD, Associate Professor of Biostatistics, "Identification of Race-Norms in Tools Used in the Assessment of Cognitive Impairment in Critically Ill Patients: A Systematic Review"
- Francis Balucan, MD, MBA, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, "The Under-recognized 'High Utilizer' Population at VUMC."

2

Research on Health Inequities and Social Determinants of Health – CHSR actively supports institutional research and system change in these areas. Recent examples include:

- [A systems approach to addressing COVID-19 health inequities](#)
- [A mixed-methods study of de-implementing race-based eGFR reporting at VUMC](#)
- [Health care professionals' perspectives on universal screening of social determinants of health](#)

3

Health Equity Research Committee and Interest Group – Led by Drs. Velma Murry and Stephen Patrick, these groups are working to connect the large number of investigators active in health disparities and health equity research across Vanderbilt campuses. The Committee is organizing a database and events to facilitate collaboration and mentorship.

4

Recruitment and Support of Faculty and Trainees – CHSR is actively collaborating with departments across VUMC to facilitate recruitment, academic support, mentorship, and networking opportunities for research faculty and trainees from groups under-represented in medicine. In 2020-21, we were fortunate to welcome many new colleagues, including:

- Cristian Chandler, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases);
- Mya Roberson, MSPH, PhD, Assistant Professor of Health Policy;
- Yacob Tedla, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Epidemiology); and
- Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, Professor of Radiation Oncology and Executive Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance.

5

Collaboration with the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance (MVA) – Through participation in the Internal Advisory Board, Faculty Affiliate Program, and other activities, CHSR is actively working with the MVA to build cross-institutional collaborations and mentorship connections.

National Research Networks

CHSR is pleased to participate in important national research networks that provide CHSR investigators an opportunity to lead or collaborate in multi-center studies. Examples include:

Stakeholders Technology and Research Clinical Research Network (STAR CRN)

VUMC is the lead site for this PCORI-funded research network which supports comparative effectiveness research, pragmatic clinical trials, health system innovation and implementation, stakeholder engagement, and the innovative use of technology to enhance and change the paradigm for patient-centered outcomes research. Russell Rothman, MD, MPP, is Principal Investigator of the network, which engages hospitals and clinics across the country and has data on more than 14 million patients.



The Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program seeks to enhance the health of children for generations with a focus on five areas: Pre-, peri-, and postnatal outcomes; Upper and lower airway; Obesity; Neurodevelopment, and Positive health. Vanderbilt's involvement in the asthma and airways consortium is led by Dr. Tina Hartert. As of November 2021, the cohorts have data from over 96,000 diverse participants across the United States, including more than 58,000 children.



Hospital Medicine Reengineering Network (HOMERuN)

VUMC is a founding member of the Hospital Medicine ReEngineering Network (HOMERuN) collaborative, which engages hospitalists, researchers, and hospital medicine groups at leading medical centers nationwide, accelerating the discovery and swift implementation of quality care improvements. Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, and Eduard Vasilevskis, MD, MPH, lead VUMC's participation.

Projects include multi-site studies on the preventability of hospital readmissions; incidence, causes, and risk factors for diagnostic error in hospital settings (UPSIDE); and a large clinical collaborative on hospitalists' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. HOMERuN maintains an active Patient & Family Advisory Council, established under a Eugene Washington Award from PCORI.



US Deprescribing Research Network

The goal of the US Deprescribing Research Network (USDeN) is to develop and disseminate evidence about deprescribing for older adults, and in doing so, to help improve medication use among older adults and the outcomes that are important to them. Funded by the National Institute on Aging, the network's key activities are designed to provide resources and supports that will catalyze expansion of the quality, quantity, and ultimate impact of deprescribing research and promote mutual learning and collaboration essential to this goal. Sandra Simmons, PhD, and Amanda Mixon, MD, MSPH, lead VUMC's involvement and the pilot award program.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

CHSR Educational Activities and Seminars

CHSR Work in Progress (WIP) Meetings

WIP sessions provide opportunities for fellows and junior faculty to present research in progress and gain valuable feedback from a diverse and interdisciplinary group of peers and senior faculty. These sessions also provide participants with exposure to other researchers at Vanderbilt and the VA, insights into applying rigorous research methodology in study design and conduct, and recommendations for utilizing other institutional experts and resources to further strengthen their work. The longstanding WIP seminars are currently led by Bill Heerman, MD, MPH.

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

The CCQIR serves as the nexus for implementation research and education at VUMC, bringing together more than 40 core faculty members from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Management, as well as VUMC leaders in quality and safety. The weekly Scholarly Series provides continuing education in the methods for improvement and implementation science, with a focus on their application in research and operational initiatives to improve health and healthcare delivery. Led by Lyndsay Nelson, PhD, sessions include local and national leaders, interactive journal clubs, and methods seminars from experienced CHSR biostatisticians.



Training Programs

Research Fellowships and Junior Faculty Career Development

VA Quality Scholars (VAQS) Fellowship Program

The mission of this advanced fellowship program is to prepare scholars to be leaders who can apply knowledge and methods of health care improvement to the care of veterans, innovate and continually improve health care, teach health professionals about health care improvement, and perform research and develop new knowledge for the ongoing improvement of the quality and value of health care services. PI: Robert Dittus, MD, MPH

Vanderbilt Patient/pRactice Outcomes Research in Effectiveness and Systems Science (PROgRESS)

The goal of the PROgRESS Program is to train early-career researchers who can address healthcare knowledge gaps and translate knowledge into application. This T32 is funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and focuses on patient-centered outcomes research, implementation science and health policy. PIs: Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH, and Carlos Grijalva, MD, MPH

Vanderbilt Scholars in T4 Translational Research (V-STTaR) K12

This mentored research training program is dedicated to developing independent investigators capable of addressing major gaps that exist in the widespread implementation of proven interventions into practice. Supported by NIH/NHLBI, scholars focus on studying real-world implementation of interventions to improve patient care in heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders. PIs: Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, and Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH

Vanderbilt Emergency Medicine Research Training (VEMRT) K12

The VEMRT K12 career development program was funded to train clinician-scientists in research areas related to emergency care such as acute cardiopulmonary emergencies, the neurobiology of acute psychiatric illness, and patient-centered emergency care nursing. PI: Alan Storrow, MD

Vanderbilt Learning Health System Scholar (LHSS) K12

This program draws together scholars and mentors across disciplines and models team science integral to learning health systems. Co-funded by AHRQ and PCORI, the LHSS K12 focuses on patient centered outcomes research, pragmatic trials, implementation and dissemination science, health policy and community health, stakeholder engagement and method advancement. PIs: Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH, and Russell Rothman, MD, MPP

CHSR Responds to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged the global research community and brought unique opportunities to provide expertise and coordination that were essential to efforts in combating the virus. Below are some of the highlights of innovative research initiatives conducted by CHSR team members across the organization.



The Stakeholders, Technology, and Research **(STAR) Clinical Research Network (CRN)**, led by Dr. Russell Rothman, launched a coordinated COVID-19 Common Data Model

(CDM) at participating STAR CRN sites, in conjunction with the CDC and other PCORnet sites nationally. The COVID-19 CDM characterizes a cohort of COVID-19 patients nationally by organizing structured data on demographics and pre-existing conditions. The data are provided to the CDC COVID-19 Task Force and can be linked to Medicare, Medicaid, state health data and commercial claims, to facilitate large-scale research and public health reporting. STAR CRN is also a leader of the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines, ACTIV-6, initiative, funded by the NIH, which is testing the role of repurposed drugs to treat COVID-19.



Healthcare Worker Exposure Response & Outcomes

The **Healthcare Worker Exposure Response and Outcomes (HERO)** program, is a registry of more than 55,000 diverse U.S. healthcare workers. An accompanying research initiative seeks to understand participants' experience with COVID-19 vaccines and the impact of the pandemic on their health and wellness.

The **Influenza and Other Viruses in the Acutely Ill (IVY) Network** is a collaborative of 21 academic institutions and the CDC, focused on severe viral respiratory infections. In IVY-4, investigators led by Dr. Wesley Self are studying emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants, effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, and the epidemiology of other viral infections in severely ill adults.



HOMERuN

Hospital Medicine
ReEngineering Network

The **Hospital Medicine ReEngineering Network (HOMERuN)**, of which VUMC is a founding member, has engaged hospital medicine groups around the country in a large clinical collaborative on COVID-19. Practice-based surveys on workforce planning, provider wellness, real-time hospital ward adaptation, clinical care pathways, discharge criteria, and follow-up protocols were conducted and disseminated rapidly to help inform and speed uptake of innovations into practice.



CRITICAL ILLNESS, BRAIN DYSFUNCTION,
and SURVIVORSHIP (CIBS) CENTER

The **Critical Illness, Brain Dysfunction, and Survivorship (CIBS) Center** collaborators study the cognitive function and physical outcomes of COVID-19 survivors to understand the relationship between COVID-19 and long-term health. Wes Ely, MD, MPH, Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI, and CIBS colleagues lead national and international studies to assess risk factors and epidemiology of delirium and coma in COVID-19 patients while admitted to the ICU and to understand long-term cognitive function, PTSD, and depression in COVID-19 survivors.

COVID-19 and Health Inequities

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted health inequities across the nation and the role of systemic racism in driving disparate health outcomes. CHSR researchers have evaluated the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on racial and ethnic minority communities, and are contributing to solutions by improving access to reliable information, telehealth services, and vaccination counseling.





Learning Health System

A Learning Health System (LHS) systematically gathers and generates evidence to inform clinical practice, and applies the most promising evidence to improve patient care. Supporting the continued growth of the Vanderbilt LHS is a priority area for CHSR. We are proud to partner with many other programs and offices at VUMC which contribute to the LHS, including (but not limited to) the **VICTR Learning Healthcare pragmatic clinical trials platform; Quality, Safety, and Risk Prevention (QSRP)**; clinical and research informatics programs; stakeholder engagement activities; implementation science initiatives; and training programs for embedded research. Together, we aim to “learn from what we do and do what we learn.”

Pragmatic Clinical Trials test the effectiveness of interventions in the real-world environment, thereby generating rigorous evidence to guide clinical practice. CHSR collaborates with the VICTR Learning Healthcare platform to provide feedback on proposed pragmatic effectiveness trials, especially as it relates to incorporation of implementation science approaches. CHSR also supports pragmatic comparative effectiveness trials such as **ADAPTABLE** and **PREVENTABLE** through the STAR CRN and other research networks.

CHSR actively partners with operational initiatives to help evaluate their effectiveness and identify opportunities for continued improvement and impact. CHSR faculty and trainees provide expertise in patient-centered outcomes research, comparative effectiveness research, implementation science, health communication, health behavior change, mixed-methods evaluation, survey research, qualitative research, community and stakeholder engagement. Examples of such partnerships include the Vanderbilt Discharge and Transitions (VDAT) initiative, Vanderbilt Hospital at Home (VHaH) program, Vanderbilt Familiar Faces (VFF) program, and Meds to Beds program. These partnerships seek to evaluate what interventions work best, for whom, and in what settings.

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Hartert



Gelbard



Collins



Rothman



Lindsell



Stollendorf

Tina Hartert, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and colleagues are [leading a nationwide study to determine the rate of novel coronavirus infection in U.S. children and their families](#). The study, named the HEROS (Human Epidemiology and Response to SARS-CoV-2) study and funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), aims to gain insight into how many children ages 1 to 21 have been infected, the percentage of those infected who develop symptoms of COVID-19 and any differences in immune responses to the virus between children and adults within the same household.

Alexander Gelbard, MD, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Co-Director of the Vanderbilt Complex Airway Center, was [awarded The Edmund Prince Fowler Award](#) for his candidate thesis to the Triological Society.

Dr. Gelbard, also [reported in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery](#) that early intervention treatment for acute laryngeal injury after intubation may prevent tracheostomy dependence and the need for additional surgical procedures.

Russell Rothman, MD, MPP, Professor of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Health Policy, Ingram Chair of Integrative and Population Health, and Vice President for Population Health Research, was [named the new director of the Institute for Medicine and Public Health \(IMPH\)](#), and Senior Vice President for Population and Public Health effective Feb 1, 2020. Dr. Rothman also [received the William J. Darby Award](#) for Translational Research that has Changed the Practice of Medicine Worldwide.

Dr. Rothman was named [co-chair of the Healthcare Worker Exposure Response & Outcomes \(HERO\) Research Program Steering Committee](#), a study that seeks to understand the experiences of health care workers for two years after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Sean Collins, MD, MSci, professor and executive vice chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, is [leading VUMC's engagement in the HERO study](#) and serves as the site's principal investigator. Dr. Collins was also [named the co-director of the Vanderbilt Coordinating Center \(VCC\)](#) and the Associate Director for Clinical Trials in the IMPH.

Sean Collins MD, MSci, Chris Lindsell, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics, and Biostatistician Kimberly Hart, MA, [teamed up with institutions around the world to document the characteristics, causes and initial management of patients presenting with acute heart failure](#). The study collected data worldwide about how quickly patients were treated, in-hospital mortality and length of stay across seven geographic regions, documenting major differences in treatment.

Deonni Stollendorf, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and **Sean Collins, MD, MSci** are leading a [PCORI-funded multi-center implementation study of GUIDED-HF](#), a self-care intervention that decreases the risk of cardiovascular-related deaths and hospital readmissions for acute heart failure patients and improves quality of life after an ED visit.

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Collins



Bernard



Wilkins



Self



Kripalani



Rothman



Munoz



Pulley



Murry



Malow



Dmochowski



Weinger

The Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR) [received a major NIH/NHLBI award to study treatments for severe COVID-19 infections](#). **Sean Collins, MD, MSci**, is leading a national trial, ACTIV-4d, to test whether drugs targeting the Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone System (RAAS) can prevent the vascular, fibrotic, and inflammatory consequences of severe COVID-19 disease. **Wesley Self, MD, MPH** is leading the ACTIV-4d Clinical Coordinating Center at VUMC.

Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MSCI, Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine was [named Senior Vice President and Senior Associate Dean for Health Equity and Inclusive Excellence](#). Dr. Wilkins [joined Gordon Bernard, MD, as Co-Principal Investigator \(co-PI\)](#) of Vanderbilt's Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). Dr. Wilkins also [received the Marion Spencer Fay award](#) from Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia.

Dr. Wilkins testified in a U.S. Senate hearing, "Examining Our COVID-19 Response: Improving Health Equity and Outcomes by Addressing Health Disparities." **Dr. Wilkins, Elisa Friedman, MS, Jill Pulley, MBA, Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc**, and others across VUMC, [engaged in efforts to address COVID-19 health inequities in Nashville](#) by evaluating differences in testing, hospitalization, and mortality by language, race, ethnicity, ZIP code and insurance status.

A team of investigators from VICTR led by **Jill Pulley, MBA** [developed a computer-based method to scan electronic medical records \(EMRs\)](#) for genetic contributors to disease to reveal the impact of race on health.

Velma McBride Murry, PhD, University Professor of Health Policy and Human & Organizational Development in Peabody College and the School of Medicine, and the Lois Autrey Betts Chair of Education and Human Development at Peabody College; and **Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MSCI** were [elected to the National Academy of Medicine](#) (NAM):

Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, Professor of Medicine, was [appointed director of the Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research](#), effective July 2020.

Sunil Kripalani, MD, MSc, Daniel Muñoz, MD, MPA, Russell Rothman, MD, MPP and colleagues on the ADAPTABLE team [reported in The New England Journal of Medicine the results of a pragmatic trial](#) to determine the comparative effectiveness of aspirin dosing in cardiovascular disease. Overall, the study results demonstrated no difference in cardiovascular events between 325 mg and 81 mg doses of daily aspirin in patients with cardiovascular disease.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) received continued funding as a national Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC). **Beth Malow, MD, MS** is [leading the Clinical Translational Core](#), one of four scientific cores to support basic and applied research on IDD.

Roger Dmochowski, MD, MMHC, was [named Interim Vice President for Perioperative Services](#) at VUMC.

Matthew Weinger, MD, MS, the Norman Ty Smith Professor of Patient Safety and Medical Simulation and professor of Anesthesiology, Biomedical Informatics, Medical Education and Administration [received the Denis M. O'Day Award](#) for Team-Implemented Curriculum Reform.

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Griffin



Hess



Roumie



Winkfield



Peterson



DeBaun



Buntin



Graves



Aliyu



McPheeters



Tindle



Patrick

Marie Griffin, MD, MPH, professor of Health Policy and Medicine and holder of the Endowed Directorship in Public Health Research and Education [was awarded the Elaine Sanders-Bush Award](#) for Mentoring Graduate and/or Medical Students in the Research Setting.

Erik Hess, MD, MSc, was [named the new Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine](#) at VUMC.

Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, was [named the new executive director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance](#).

Christianne Roumie, MD, MPH, was [named director of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Master of Public Health program](#), a two-year interdisciplinary program accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

VUMC [established a racial equity task force](#) co-chaired by **Mamie Williams, MPH, MSN, Peety Kaur**, and **Michael DeBaun, MD, MPH**. The Task Force included representatives from nursing, food and nutrition, campus police, human resources, medicine, pediatrics and surgery.

Josh Peterson, MD, MPH, Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Medicine, was [named director of the Center for Precision Medicine](#) at Vanderbilt University Medical Center effective October 2020.

Dr. Peterson and **John Graves, PhD**, associate professor of Health Policy and director of the Center for Health Economic Modeling along with VUMC researchers [found screening younger women for hereditary cancers may be cost effective](#).

Dr. Graves and fellow researchers, **Melinda Buntin, PhD**, Mike Curb Professor of Health Policy and Chair of the Department of Health Policy, and **Melissa McPheeters, PhD**, Research Professor and former Co-Director of the Center for Improving the Public's Health Through Informatics, [developed a case mix index \(CMI\) to calculate the risk profile of COVID-19 patients](#) across the state using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on a primary risk factor, age.

Dr. Buntin [was named deputy editor of JAMA Health Forum](#), a new online journal published by JAMA Network.

Muktar Aliyu, MBBS, MPH, DrPH and **Hilary Tindle, MD, MPH** [were elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation](#) and inducted in April 2021.

Dr. Tindle [evaluated smoking risk perception during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Smokers who believed they were at increased risk of getting COVID-19 during the pandemic were more likely to quit, while those who perceived more stress increased their cigarette consumption.

Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS, FAAP, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy, and Director of the Center for Child Health Policy, was one of the nine Outstanding Faculty members from across the University to be [selected for the 2021 cohort of Chancellor Faculty Fellows](#). **Dr. Patrick** was awarded the [Mildred T. Stahlman Award for Innovation in Clinical Care](#), as well as the fifth annual [Gale and Ira Drukier Prize in Children's Health Research](#).

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Rosenbloom



Dusetzina



Hartmann



Jaser



Barocas



Leech



Ely



Pandharipande

Dr. Patrick was appointed as a Senior Policy Advisor to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy where he is leading work focused on improving outcomes for pregnant people with substance use disorder and their infants. His research group also [designed a new prediction model](#) to make it easier to determine which infants will go on to develop neonatal abstinence syndrome, a drug withdrawal syndrome in newborns that occurs after exposure to opioids during pregnancy.

Trent Rosenbloom, MD, MPH, Professor and Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs in the Department of Biomedical Informatics, was [appointed to the National Library of Medicine's \(NLM\) Biomedical Informatics, Library and Data Sciences \(BILDS\) Review Committee](#). The BILDS committee is the leading study section for the NLM.

Stacie Dusetzina, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Ingram Associate Professor of Cancer Research, was [appointed to a three-year term on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission](#), recognition of her track record of policy-relevant research and analysis related to drug pricing and coverage for Medicare beneficiaries.

Dr. Dusetzina [published in Health Affairs](#) that Medicare Part D prescription drug insurance plans largely favor generic drugs over brand-name counterparts.

Katherine Hartmann, MD, PhD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and of Medicine and Lucius E. Burch Professor of Reproductive Physiology and Family Planning, [received the Thomas A. Hazinski Award](#) for Effectiveness in Mentoring and Professional Development of Faculty. **Dr. Hartmann** was also [named Vice President for Research Integration at VUMC](#).

Sarah Jaser, PhD Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was [named the Inaugural Director for the new Division of Pediatric Psychology](#) within the Department of Pediatrics. The new division will address the need for psychology services for children with acute and chronic medical conditions.

Daniel Barocas, MD, MPH, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Urology at VUMC was senior author on the CEASAR (Comparative Effectiveness Analysis of Surgery and Radiation for Localized Prostate Cancer) study [conducting long-term follow up on men who were diagnosed with localized prostate cancer](#) between 2011 and 2012.

The NIH-funded study led by **Ashley Leech, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Health Policy, [reported that rates of neonatal abstinence syndrome \(NAS\)](#) per 1,000 live births stabilized in 2016 after peaking in 2014 at the beginning of a surge in opioid-related deaths in the United States. **Dr. Leech** also [found only about 54% of medical practitioners surveyed say they have prescribed pre-exposure prophylaxis](#), or PrEP, to HIV-vulnerable patients.

Researchers at the [Critical Illness, Brain Dysfunction, and Survivorship \(CIBS\) Center](#) in coordination with researchers in Spain, showed COVID-19 patients [admitted to intensive care in the early months of the pandemic were subject to a significantly higher burden of delirium](#) and coma than is typically found in patients with acute respiratory failure. The CIBS Center is co-led by **Wesley Ely, MD, MPH** and **Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI**.

Wesley Ely, MD, MPH, Grant Liddle Professor of Medicine and colleagues have [spurred widespread interest in ICU delirium](#), leading to system and workflow changes in the Epic electronic health record to advance prevention of ICU delirium and improve patient outcomes.

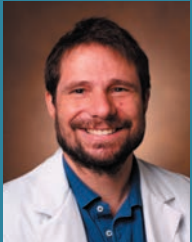
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Patel



Han



Freiberg



Wright



Raman



Mixon



McDonald

Mayur Patel, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Surgery, and **Dr. Ely** are [studying adult survivors of medical and surgical intensive care at high risk for long-term cognitive impairment](#) to see if computerized cognitive rehabilitation (CCR) is effective in improving cognition in ICU survivors who often have trouble doing complex tasks, maintaining their finances and staying employed.

Jin Han, MD, MSc, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine along with colleagues at the CIBS Center is [studying patients who have been hospitalized for COVID-19](#) over time to see if they develop long-term cognitive impairment, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Matthew Freiberg, MD, MSc, Professor of Medicine and Dorothy and Laurence Grossman Professor of Cardiology [published in JAMA Network Open](#) that zinc supplementation did not reduce mortality, cardiovascular risk, levels of inflammation or microbial translocation among people with heavy alcohol use living with HIV/AIDS.

Adam Wright, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Informatics, and colleagues from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Partners Healthcare in Boston [evaluated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) on the rate of performance of screening and prevention services and assessed the implications of these changes.

Rameela Raman, PhD and colleagues at VUMC [examined the effect of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine PCV13 on socioeconomic health disparities](#).

Amanda Mixon, MD, MSPH, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health, is [serving as site principal Investigator of PREVENTABLE](#) (Pragmatic Evaluation of Events and Benefits of Lipid-Lowering in Older Adults). The PCORI-funded trial is enrolling older adults to study whether taking atorvastatin can help maintain health by preventing dementia, disability, and heart disease.

T.A. Meridian McDonald, PhD, a research instructor in Neurology, has spent 25 years researching autism. A unifying explanation of the cause of autism and the reason for its rising prevalence has eluded scientists for decades, but a theoretical model [published in the journal Medical Hypotheses](#) describes the cause as a combination of socially valued traits, common in autism, and any number of co-occurring disabilities.

AFFILIATED FACULTY MEMBERS

Abdel-Kader, Khaled
Adgent, Margaret A
Ahonkhai, Aimalohi
Aldrich, Melinda Carolyn
Aliyu, Muktar Hassan
Ancker, Jessica S
Anders, Shilo H
Annapureddy, Narender
Archer, Kristin R
Arnold, Donald H
Bachmann, Justin M
Banerjee, Arna
Banerjee, Ritu
Barkin, Shari L
Barocas, Daniel A
Buntin, Melinda J Beeuwkes
Bernard, Gordon Raphael
Blakely, Martin L
Cahill, Katherine
Cavanaugh, Kerri Lyn
Chandler, Cristian
Choi, Leena
Chren, Mary-Margaret
Chung Nakandakari, Cecilia Pilar
Collins, Sean P
Cooper, William O
Coronado, Rogelio A
DeBaun, Michael R
Deppen, Stephen Andrew
Dittus, Robert S
Dmochowski, Roger R
Dupont, William D
Dusetzina, Stacie B
Elasy, Tom A
Ely, Eugene Wesley
Feurer, Irene D
France, Daniel J
Freiberg, Matthew S
French, Benjamin
Fry, Carrie E
Fuchs, Catherine
Gaines, Kenneth J
Gelbard, Alexander H
Gonzales, Gilbert
Graves, John A
Greevy, Robert A
Griffith, Kevin N
Grijalva, Carlos G
Grogan, Eric Lee
Guillamondegui, Oscar D
Han, Jin H
Harrell Jr, Frank E
Harris, Paul A
Hartert, Tina V

Hartmann, Katherine E
Hawkins, Alexander T
Heerman, William J
Hess, Erik P
Holzman, Michael D
Horst, Sara N
Hughes, Christopher G
Hung, Adriana M
Idrees, Kamran
Jackson, James C
Jaser, Sarah S
Keohane, Laura M
Koyama, Tatsuki
Kripalani, Sunil B
Leech, Ashley A
Lewis, Jennifer A
Lindsell, Christopher J
Malow, Beth A
Martinez, William
Matheny, Michael E
Mayberry, Lindsay Satterwhite
McCoy, Allison B
McKernan, Lindsey
Meador, Keith G
Minnick, Ann F
Mixon, Amanda Salanitro
Moon, Troy
Moore, Paul Edward
Mulvaney, Shelagh Ann
Muñoz, Daniel
Murff, Harvey J
Nair, Devika
Novak, Laurie L
Obremsky, William T
Pandharipande, Pratik P
Patel, Mayur Bipin
Patrick, Stephen W
Penson, David F
Peterson, Josh F
Peterson, Neeraja
Phillippi, Julia C
Poon, Sabrina
Powers, James S
Pulley, Jill
Raman, Rameela
Ray, Wayne A
Rebeiro, Peter F
Reynolds, William S
Rhoten, Bethany Andrews
Roberson, Mya
Rosas Salazar, Christian
Rosenbloom, Samuel T
Rothman, Russell L
Roumie, Christianne L

Russ, Stephan E
Samuels, Lauren R
Schaffner, William
Schildcrout, Jonathan
Schnelle, John F
Self, Wesley H
Sethi, Manish K
Shannon, Chevis N
Shinall, Myrick C
Simmons, Sandra F
Slagle, Jason M
Smith, Heidi A B
Snyder, Brittney M
Stevenson Jr, David G
Stolldorf, Deonni Pamela
Storrow, Alan B
Stubblefield, William-May B
Tanner IV, Simpson B
Tedla, Yacob G
Tindle, Hilary Aurora
Umeukeje, Ebele M
Van Driest, Sara L
Vasilevskis, Eduard E
Velez Edwards, Digna R
Weinger, Matthew B
Wellons III, John C
Wells, Quinn S
Wester, C. William
Wilkins, Consuelo H
Williams, Sarah E
Winkfield, Karen Marie
Wright, Adam
Wu, Pingsheng

The CHSR faculty list is available online in a searchable database.

[LINK](#)



Vanderbilt Center for Health Services Research

Institute for Medicine and Public Health

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

2525 West End Avenue | Nashville, Tennessee 37203

vumc.org/hsr

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