

# SECTION OF HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

## SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Dr. Barbara Trautner and her team at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) are currently the fifth-highest enrolling site in the world for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and National Institutes of Health-funded Adaptive, Randomized, Blinded Controlled Trial of the Safety and Efficacy of Investigational Therapeutics for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19 trial.
- Dr. Vivian Ho was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in recognition of “her scholarly work in providing insights on how economic factors and government regulations interact to influence the cost and quality of health care,” according to NAM’s citation of her accomplishments. “Her work has shaped policy on state Certificate of Need regulations, hospital antitrust and freestanding emergency departments.”
- Dr. Hardeep Singh served as a technical expert panel member for the RAND Corporation report, [Health Services and Primary Care Research Study Comprehensive Report](#), which identified research gaps and proposed strategies for better coordination across the Federal enterprise.



### SECTION CHIEF

*Laura Petersen, MD, MPH,  
FACP*

## FACULTY

### **Section Leadership**

- Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH, FACP, Director
- Drew A. Helmer, MD, MS, Deputy Director
- Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH, Program Chief, Health Policy, Quality and Informatics
- Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH, Program Chief, Behavioral Health
- Thomas P. Giordano, MD, MPH, Program Chief, Clinical Effectiveness and Population Health
- Aanand D. Naik, MD, Program Chief, Implementation Science and Innovation
- Natalie E. Hundt, PhD, Program Chief, Education and Training Core
- Jessica A. Davila, PhD, Program Chief, Methodology and Analytics Core
- Shannon Kenyon, MBA, Program Chief, Administration and Operations

## **Faculty**

### **Primary Faculty**

#### **Professor**

- Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH, FACP
- Vivian Ho, PhD
- Sylvia J. Hysong, PhD
- Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH
- Richard L. Street, Jr., PhD
- Barbara W. Trautner, MD, PhD

#### **Associate Professor**

- Jessica A. Davila, PhD
- Lilian N. Dindo, PhD
- Jennifer R. Kramer, PhD, MPH
- Daniel R. Murphy, MD, MBA
- Sara Nowakowski, PhD, CBSM, DBSM

#### **Assistant Professor**

- Amber B. Amspoker, PhD
- Traber L. Giardina, PhD
- Kyler M. Godwin, PhD
- Molly J. Horstman, MD, MS
- Ashley N.D. Meyer, PhD

- Javad Razjouyan, PhD, MSc
- Peter A. Richardson, PhD
- Shubhada Sansgiry, PhD, BPharm
- Donna L. White, PhD, MPH
- Andrew J. Zimolzak, MD, MMSc

#### **Instructor**

- Israel C. Christie, PhD
- Patrick N. O'Mahen, PhD
- Annette Walder, MS

#### **Senior Faculty**

- Drew A. Helmer, MD
- Thomas McGinn, MD, MPH

#### **Secondary Faculty**

##### **Professor**

- Jeffrey A. Cully, PhD
- Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH

##### **Associate Professor**

- Nader N. Massarweh, MD, MH, FACS

## **HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH, FACP**

- Grant Funding
  - Continued as Principal Investigator on funded projects (total funding amount \$5,304,161):
    - VA HSR&D COIN; Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQuEST); \$4 million
    - VA HSR&D Investigator Initiated Research (IIR) Grant; Improving the Measurement of VA Facility Performance to Foster a Learning Health Care System; \$1,099,906
    - VA HSR&D COVID-19 RRP; Rapid Assessment of National Surges and Variations in COVID-19 Inpatient Nurse Staffing Using a Big Data Approach; \$174,261
    - BCM Population Health Grant; Effects on Population Health of Having More than One Source of Care: Expanding Medicaid Coverage for Veterans with Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease; \$29,994
  - Initiated as Principal Investigator one funded project (total funding amount \$1,198,618):

- VA HSR&D IIR Grant; Medicaid Expansion and Quality, Utilization and Coordination of Health Care for Veterans with Chronic Kidney Disease; \$1,198,618
- Publications:
  - Published 31 peer-reviewed publications
  - BCM Position Statement, co-author: “Strengthening Our Commitment to Racial Justice to Improve Public Health” on behalf of the Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy at Baylor College of Medicine, August 31, 2020
  - Two papers cited in NASEM report, “Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care,” released May 4, 2021
    - Hysong SJ, Amspoker AB, Hughes AM, Woodard LD, Oswald FL, **Petersen LA**, Lester HF. Impact of team configuration and team stability on primary care quality, *Implement Sci* 2019;14(1):22
    - Weaver SJ, Che XX, **Petersen LA**, Hysong SJ. Unpacking care coordination through a multi-team system lens: A conceptual framework and systematic review, *Med Care* 2018;56(3):247-59
- Service:
  - National Diversity & Leadership Conference Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) DEI Champion, 2021
  - Panel Moderator, “New Challenges, New Opportunities: What’s Next for Academic Medical Centers,” BCM Health and Science Policy Research Day, May 4, 2021
  - Member, BCM Datathon Planning and Data Governance Committees, 2019-2021

### **Amber B. Amspoker, PhD**

- Education
  - Associate Director of the Education and Training Core, IQuEST
  - FY20 Outstanding Faculty Educator Award, IQuEST Houston (awarded July 2020)
  - Lead of the Methods, Analytics, and Data Education Committee, IQuEST
  - Inaugural member of the Peer Mentor Academy, BCM Department of Medicine, and co-leader of the first Peer Mentoring Group representing the Section of Health Services Research
- Published 14 peer-reviewed publications
- Presented work entitled "Implementation of Automatic Early Warning Decision Support to Detect Acute Decompensation in the Emergency Department Improves Hospital Mortality" during BCM's inaugural Datathon (October 2020)

### **Israel C. Christie, PhD**

- Member of the Methods, Analytics, and Data Education Committee, IQuEST
- Mentor to two junior members of Methodology and Analytics Core
- Principal statistician/methodologist on six funded research and operations projects

### **Jeffrey A. Cully, PhD**

- Continued as PI on two funded projects dedicated to studying and implementing evidence-based psychotherapies for primary care and community-based outpatient clinics (\$1.5 million in direct costs)
  - Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression and Suicidal Ideation
  - Creating Practice-Ready Evidence-Based Psychotherapies
- Started on project as PI on VA HSR&D IIR Grant; A pragmatic Trial of Brief CBT for Anxiety in VA Primary Care; \$1,256,805
- Published 9 peer-reviewed publications
- Service
  - 2020 Mental Health Provider Pandemic Survey Project – 1,000 responses from VA mental health providers in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi
  - Grant Reviewer – VA Health Services Research and Development
  - Grant Reviewer – National Institute of Mental Health

### **Jessica A. Davila, PhD**

- UME Education for AY20-21:
  - Course Director, Research and Population in Medicine
  - Member, Curriculum Renewal Evaluation Workgroup (CREW)
  - Committee Lead, 21st Century in Medicine Subcommittee of CREW
  - Member, School of Medicine LCME Site Visit Team
  - Completed all graduation requirements for the BCM Master Teacher Fellowship Program
- Informatics at BCM
  - Program Lead, Informatics Core for the CTSA application
  - Co-lead, BCM Data Governance Committee
  - Member, 2020 BCM Datathon Planning Committee
  - Co-author, BCM Datathon Abstract accepted for oral presentation at the AMIA 2021 meeting
  - Program Lead at BCM, National COVID Cohort Collaborative, NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

### **Lilian Dindo, PhD**

- Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure (2020)
- Continued as Principal Investigator on four nationally funded grants:
  - NIH; Targeting HIV Retention and Improved Viral load through Engagement
  - VA RR&D; One-day Life Skills Workshop for Veterans with TBI, pain, and Psychopathology: Evaluating efficacy and mechanism of change
  - NIH; Preventing Persistent Post-Surgical Pain and Dysfunction in At-Risk Veterans: Effect of a Brief Behavioral Intervention
  - ORH; Combination outreach and wellness intervention for distressed out-of-care rural Veterans
- Continued as co-Investigator on four nationally or foundation-funded grants:

- VARC; ACT Workshops: A Novel Delivery Modality to Increase Access to Mental Health Care for Rural Veterans.
- HRSA; Southeast Texas Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (SETx-WEP)
- Hartford Foundation; Improving Care of Persons with Complex Health Conditions
- Translational Research Center for TBI Stress Disorders (TRACTS) Network Site
- Published 10 peer-reviewed publications and three book chapters between July 2020-current; four invited national presentations
- Service
  - 2021: Early Career Mentee Award Program review panel, Association for Contextual and Behavioral Sciences
  - 2021: Career Development Panel, Rehabilitation Research & Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs. February 2021
  - 2021: IQuEST Education Awards Committee
  - 2020 – current: Fellowship Associate Program Co-Director of HSRD Fellowship

**Traber L. Giardina, PhD**

- 2020-21 National Academy of Medicine Scholar in Diagnostic Excellence
  - Title: “Overcoming Barriers to Diagnostic Safety for Underrepresented Populations: Implementing Structured Tools to Engage Patients in Diagnosis (The ISTEP Dx Project)”
- Continued as Principal Investigator on Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) K01
  - Engaging patients in diagnostic error reporting
- Service
  - Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine Patient Engagement Committee

**Kyler Godwin, PhD**

- Continued as Principal Investigator/Director of grants for more than \$550,000 annually in direct funding
  - Director, National VA Quality Scholars Program
  - Principal Investigator, Leading Healthcare Improvement: Leadership Training for Applied Improvement Strategies
- Initiated as Principal Investigator/Director for grants in excess of \$2.1 million
  - Director, National Health Professions Education Evaluation and Research Coordinating Center Grant (\$2,088,000 in funding), July 2020- present
  - Principal Investigator, Evaluation of Advanced Fellowships in Geriatrics
- Published 4 peer-reviewed publications
- Service
  - Co-chair, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the South Central Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Centers of Excellence (MIRECC), including Houston, Louisiana, and Arkansas. October 2020 – March 2021.
  - Assistant Director of Education, BCM Institute for Continuing Professional Development in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QI/PS Institute) (ongoing)

- Awards
  - 2021 Baylor College of Medicine Women of Excellence Award, March 2021
  - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Educational Research, September 2020

### **Drew Helmer, MD**

- Continued as Principal Investigator three funded projects worth more than \$5 million:
  - Genomics of Gulf War Illness
  - Retrospective Medical Record Review to Establish a Clinical Case Definition for Gulf War Illness
  - Lung Injury Etiology, Risk Factors, and Morbidity of Single and Repeated Low-level Blast Overpressure Exposure
- Initiated as Principal Investigator two funded projects worth \$1.5 million:
  - AHBPCE/IQuEst Military Exposure Surveillance Collaboration
  - Engaging Veterans in the Gulf Coast Community to advance Understanding of Military Exposure Research and Action Priorities
- Published 17 peer-reviewed publications
- 2020 – present
  - Member of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses
  - Dec 2019 – present, VA champion for the revision of the VA/DoD Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Chronic Multisymptom Illness
  - Dec 2020 – present, Member VA Office of Research and Development Military Exposure Research Program Task Force

### **Vivian Ho, PhD**

- Continued as Principal Investigator on two funded projects worth more than \$2 million:
  - Affordability Cures, Examining the Impact of Laws Aiming to Curb Balance Billing in the Emergency Department
  - Does Physician-Hospital Integration Affect the Quality and Price of Hospital Care?
- Supported applications as Co-Investigator on two projects worth more than \$200,000
  - Understanding Modifiable Barriers to Employment in Patients with Kidney Disease
  - Examining economic barriers to advanced kidney disease care, the associated health outcomes, and potential policy solutions
- Published five peer-reviewed publications
- Service
  - January 2020: Presented “Healthcare Proposals and the 2020 Elections” to Texas Heart Institute/Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, Cardiology Grand Rounds
  - April-August 2020: Published a weekly blog summarizing the latest research on the risk factors for severe Covid-19 disease, emerging treatments and vaccines, and policy actions to control the pandemic; discussed these updates on a weekly Houston Public Media show, Houston Matters. <https://www.bakerinstitute.org/VivianHoCovid19>
  - June 2020: Moderated a panel for Zhejiang University/Rice University webinar on “Overcoming Challenges of COVID-19 and Evolving Opportunities in the Post-Pandemic Era”

- October 2020: Presented “Tracking Trends in Trauma Care Costs and Outcomes in Texas” to Baylor College of Medicine, Surgery Grand Rounds
- October 2020: Elected to the National Academy of Medicine
- November 2020: Panelist on Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, University of Pennsylvania. “North American Virtual Think Tank Summit. A global overview of the social, political, economic, and policy impact of the crisis and what will be the long-term impact on Mexico, Canada and the United States”

#### **Molly J. Horstman, MD, MS**

- Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care (2021)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching and Evaluation (2021)
- Baylor College of Medicine Faculty Award for annual Showcase of Educational Scholarship (2020)
- Awarded the VA Health Professions Education, Evaluation, and Research Coordinating Center with Dr. Kyler Godwin (Director) and Dr. Vince Watts (Associate Director for Evaluation); serving as the Associate Director for Curriculum
- Received Notice of Intent to fund VA HSR&D-National Institute on Aging Career Development Award “Hospital GamePlan4Care: A Web-Based Delivery System for Dementia Caregiver Support”

#### **Sylvia J. Hysong, PhD**

- Promotion to full professor with tenure at BCM
- Elected Fellow of the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology (first ever at BCM, and first ever at Department of Veterans Affairs (all three agencies)
- Continued as principal investigator on AHRQ R01 worth \$1.5 million
- Initiated two new grants funded as principal investigator worth \$100,000
  - Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Seed Grant PACT Coordination during Public Health Emergencies: Impact on Quality of Care; \$50,000
  - BCM Healthcare Disparities Grant; Concordance between the Race of Patients and Their Care Team: Overcoming Chronic Health Outcome Disparities in Primary Care; \$50,000
- Published six peer-reviewed publications (three first author, two senior author, one co-author)
- Service
  - FACA-Appointed Member, VA HSR&D Scientific Merit Review Board
  - Subject Matter Expert: VHA Deputy Chief Officer for Public Health COVID Vaccine Staff Survey Workgroup
  - Executive Advisory Board Member, Career Development Award Enhancement Initiative, VA Health Services Research and Development.
  - Founding (and continuing) Steering Committee Member, International Audit and Feedback Meta-Laboratory
  - Chair, Continuing Education Committee, Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology
  - Chair, BCM Healthcare Innovations Grant Review Panel
  - Member, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award Review Committee
  - Chair, Norton Rose Fulbright Education Grants Committee

- Impact: Two journal papers recently cited in 2021 National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NAEM) report “[Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care](#),” released May 4, 2021
  - Hysong SJ, Amspoker AB, Hughes AM, Woodard LD, Oswald FL, Petersen LA, Lester HF. Impact of team configuration and team stability on primary care quality. *Implement Sci* 2019; 14(1):22.
  - Weaver SJ, Che XX, Petersen LA, Hysong SJ. Unpacking care coordination through a multiteam system lens: A conceptual framework and systematic review. *Med Care* 2018; 56(3):247-59.

**Jennifer R. Kramer, PhD, MPH**

- Promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine in 2020
- Newly funded NIH R01 PQ3 grant as VA site PI; Reducing cancer treatment disparities for patients with HIV
- Published 16 peer-reviewed manuscripts

**Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH**

- Continued as Principal Investigator two funded projects worth more than \$3.7 million:
  - Using Peer Navigators to Increase Access to VA and Community Resources for Veterans with Diabetes-related Distress
  - South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center
- Initiated as Principal Investigator one pilot project worth \$40,000; Assessing the Needs of Veterans with Type 2 Diabetes During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Veteran-Engaged Qualitative Approach
- Published 17 peer-reviewed publications
- Service
  - Houston & Southeast Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association - Board Member and Walk to End Alzheimer's Co-Chair

**Nader N. Massarweh, MD, MH, FACS**

- New VA HSR&D Merit award
- Published 28 publications; two in JAMA
- Service:
  - Chair of the Association of VA Surgeons Bylaws Committee
  - Society for Surgical Oncology Corporate Relations Committee
  - Associate Editor for Healthcare Delivery, Quality Improvement, and Quality Assurance: *Journal of Surgical Research*
  - American College of Surgeons, General Surgery Coding and Reimbursement Committee, Member (2014-Present)
  - American College of Surgeons, Alternate Advisor to the American Medical Association Relative-Value Scale Update Committee (2015-Present)
  - Association for Academic Surgery, Clinical and Health Services Research Committee (2019-Present)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Teaching and Evaluation



### **Thomas McGinn, MD, MPH**

- Executive Vice President, Physician Enterprise, CommonSpirit Health and Senior Faculty, Baylor College of Medicine
- Continued as Principal investigator on the following funded projects:
  - 3R18HS026196-02S1, AHRQ; Implementation of a Novel Multi-Platform Evidence-Based Clinical Decision Support System – Competitive Revision Supplement; \$238,499
  - 1R61HD104566-01, NIH/NICHD; Evaluating implementation and feasibility of evidence-based universal screening and intervention strategies for firearm injury and mortality prevention among youth and adults in emergency departments; \$790,313
- Published 16 peer-reviewed manuscripts
- Service:
  - *Annals of Internal Medicine*: Reviewer, 2000 to present
  - *JAMA*: Reviewer, 2000 to present
  - *Journal of General Internal Medicine*: Reviewer, 1999 to present

### **Ashley N.D. Meyer, PhD**

- Continued as Principal Investigator for one funded project
  - Understanding physicians' diagnostic accuracy in the EHR era; \$800,000
- Continued as Co-Director and Co-Investigator for 1 funded project
  - Diagnosis Improvement Safety Center (DIScovery) at MEDVAMC; \$900,000
- Published 4 peer-reviewed publications
- Service:
  - Co-Chair of The Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine's 13th Annual Diagnostic Error in Medicine Conference
  - Chair of The Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine's Research Committee, 2020-2021
  - Co-Lead of Inaugural Peer Mentoring Group within BCM's Section of Health Services Research, 2020-present

### **Daniel R. Murphy, MD, MBA**

- Served on the Datathon Planning and Data Governance Committees
  - Contributed to the development of an accessible data platform for faculty to use clinical data at BCM for research and quality improvement
  - Assisted with planning for the 2020 Datathon, which allowed faculty members to highlight successful use of data
- Chaired the Baylor Medicine Quality and Safety Committee
  - Led efforts to collect and disseminate key quality data throughout Baylor Medicine
  - Supported quality improvement efforts to close care gaps, resulting in over \$341,000 of quality-related income to Baylor in 2021 from the Medicare Shared Savings Program
  - Facilitated activities that led to Baylor Medicine receiving awards for quality from the American Heart Association and TMF Health Quality Institute
  - Assisted in development and testing of a Quality Registry for quality improvement projects across BCM

- Led the Baylor Medicine Telemedicine Planning Committee (Since April 2020)
  - Led rapid rollout of telemedicine processes, infrastructure, and training across Baylor Medicine to meet patient needs during COVID-19 pandemic
- Served as Medical Director of the General Internal Medicine Clinic
  - Piloted telemedicine at the start of the pandemic
  - Grew resident trainees from three residents in 2019, to seven in 2020, and 10 in July 2021
- Served on the BCM Incident Command Center (Since March 2020)
  - Helped to coordinate clinical processes in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Sara Nowakowski, PhD, CBSM, DBSM**

- Primary/1<sup>st</sup> co-editor of a book that will be published in October 2021, *Adapting Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Insomnia*
- Ongoing R01 in Year three
- Published six peer reviewed papers, three book chapters, 15 conference abstracts
- Building national reputation – invited to review NIH small business grants for study section Small Business: Clinical Neurophysiology, Devices, Neuroprosthetics, and Biosensors – ETTN (10) and appointed to serve as Associate Editor for journal *Sleep Advances*
- Building international reputation – invited to prepare and moderate a course at World Sleep Conference in Rome, Italy
- Mentored 12 trainees:
  - Four Pulmonary Fellows (conducted research study and presenting poster at SLEEP 2021 meeting)
  - Four junior faculty (primary mentor on K23 app, primary mentor on funded pilot grant as part of R25 PRIDE)
  - Two postdoctoral fellows (each submitted diversity apps)
  - Two practicum summer students (MPH student at UTSPH, BCM medical student)

**Patrick O'Mahen, PhD**

- Continued as Principal or Co-Investigator on two funded projects worth \$80,000
  - Effects of VA State Medicaid Expansion on VA Dual Enrollment and Care Utilization
  - Effects on Population Health of Having More Than One Source of Care: Expanding Medicaid Coverage for Veterans with Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease
- Initiated as Co-Investigator one funded project worth \$1.2 million
  - IIR 19-057: Medicaid Expansion and Quality, Utilization and Coordination of Health Care for Veterans with Chronic Kidney Disease
- Published 6 peer-reviewed publications
- Service
  - October 2020-present: invited lecturer for Foundations in Health Services Research Seminar

### **Javad Razjouyan, PhD, MSc**

- K25 from NIH-NHLBI
- Seed Award from MEDVAMC
- Seed Award from BCM on COVID-19 response
- VA CSRD co-I on COVID response
- Co-PI on Houston VA Research & Education Foundation grant
- Published seven manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals

### **Peter A. Richardson, PhD**

- Published five peer-reviewed publications

### **Shubhada Sansgiry, PhD, BPharm**

- Continued as Co-Investigator/Methodologist on seven funded projects worth over \$2.9 million and three contracts worth about \$2.8 million

#### Funded Projects:

- VA HSR&D IIR; Effectiveness, safety, and patient preferences of Infliximab biosimilar medications for inflammatory bowel disease
- VA HSR&D IIR; Anxiety diagnostic accuracy in VA primary care mental health integration settings: Identifying barriers and facilitators to inform a learning health care system
- DOA IIS; Anemia treatment patterns and outcomes among a national cohort of patients with inflammatory bowel disease
- VA RR&D SPiRE; Improving Quality of Life for Veterans with Stroke and Psychological Distress
- VA HSR&D IIR; A Multi-Level Intervention to Improve Cancer Care for Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- HSR&D COIN SUPP; Increasing Access to Evidence Based Psychotherapies for Depression
- South Central MIRECC Pilot; Development and Pilot Testing of Video-based Delivery of Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Anxiety

#### Funded Contracts:

- Department of Veterans Affairs; Coordinating Hub to Promote Research Optimizing Veteran-centric EHR Networks
- Veterans Health Administration, Office of Academic Affiliations; The Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI) Program
- MIDAS (MIRECC Implementation, Design, and Analysis Support); Design and Analysis of research projects for VISN 16 MIRECC investigators
- Initiated as Co-Investigator/Methodologist two funded projects worth over \$1.7 million
  - VA HSR&D IIR; A Pragmatic Trial of Brief CBT for Anxiety in VA Primary Care
  - Lone Star Stroke Tele-Stroke Research Network: BCM HUB; Feasibility of video teleconference self-management to prevent stroke (V-STOP II) for rural and underserved Texas residents
- Published four peer-reviewed publications, and two in press

- Service
  - Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Pharmaceutical Analytics and Insights*

### **Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH**

- Continued as Principal Investigator for six funded projects worth more than \$3.5 million annually
  - A Safer Dx Guide for Organizational Risk Assessment to Improve Diagnostic Safety: A Proposal for Development and Refinement
  - The Safer Dx Learning Lab: A Demonstration Project for Improving Diagnostic Safety
  - Diagnosis Improvement Safety Center (DISCOVERY)
  - Measuring and Improving the Safety of Test Result Follow-Up
  - Application of Machine Learning to Enhance e-Triggers to Detect and Learn from Diagnostic Safety Event
  - Clinical Quality Measure to Improve Diagnosis of Cancer: The Safer Dx Cancer e-Measure
- Submitted one R01 as PI and two R01s as Co-Investigator
- Published 58 peer-reviewed publications
- Service
  - January 2021–present, Chair, Expert Stakeholder Panel for the ‘Promote Research Optimizing Veteran-Centric EHR Networks (PROVEN) Hub’ that provides research guidance for VA’s EHR Transformation
  - May 2021–present, Invited Member, The National Academy of Medicine Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector
  - May 2021-present, Invited Expert, Drafting and Review Task Force. Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030. World Health Organization; released and Adopted by the World Health Assembly
  - 2019-present, Expert Advisory Panelist – Patient Safety Measures of Hospital Harm Technical Expert Panel, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
  - 2013-present, Co-leader, VHA Communication of Test Results Policy Work Group to revise national VA policy on test results communication to providers and patients

### **Richard L. Street, Jr., PhD**

- Book: *Understanding Clinical Negotiation* (2021)
- Appointed Senior Deputy Editor for the journal *Patient Education and Counseling*
- “How clinician-patient communication heals: Pathways to improved health outcomes.” Virtual keynote address, *Medicine, Humanity and Media* (MHM 2020): “Healthy China” & Health Communication International Conference, Peking University, China
- Published eight peer-reviewed publications and one book chapter

### **Barbara W. Trautner, MD, PhD**

- Continued as Principal Investigator on three funded projects worth more than \$4.5 million
  - Reducing Use of Antibiotics without a Prescription among Outpatients in a Safety Net Healthcare System

- Bacteriophage to treat multidrug-resistant UTI in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury
- Less is More: Improving Antibiotic Stewardship for Asymptomatic Bacteriuria
- Initiated as Principal Investigator or site PI four funded projects worth \$400,000
  - Bacteriophage Therapy for Drive Line Infections of Ventricular Assist Devices
  - Protecting Veterans from Harms of Inappropriate Self-Treatment for COVID-19
  - MEDVAMC co-lead for NIAID- and NIH-funded ACTIV-3 trial (monoclonal antibodies for COVID): Multicenter, Adaptive, Randomized, Blinded Controlled Trial of the Safety and Efficacy of Investigational Therapeutics for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19
  - Top enrolling VA site and one of top ten enrolling sites worldwide
  - MEDVAMC co-lead for Roche Genentech Inc.-sponsored EMPACTA trial: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-controlled, Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Tocilizumab in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19 (published in *NEJM*)
- Published 22 peer-reviewed publications
- Service/leadership/awards
  - Co-chair of IDSA UTI Guidelines Committee
  - Keynote speaker at Texas A&M University research day
  - VA Health Service Research and Development Merit Review Board HSR6 (Long-term Care, Aging, and Support Services panel)
  - VA Data Monitoring Committee for CSP #2004
  - 2021 Baylor College of Medicine Women of Excellence Award
  - Participant in 2021 VA Diffusion Academy
  - The Joint Commission Antimicrobial Stewardship Standards Technical Advisory Panel

#### **Annette Walder, MS**

- Chair, IQuEST Team Leadership Advisory Committee, 2021
- Published four peer-reviewed publications
- Presentation: Okusaga OO., Mitchell B, Walder A. (2021), Clozapine is associated with elevated risk of COVID-19 infection in Veterans with schizophrenia. Society of Biological Psychiatry

#### **Donna L. White, PhD, MPH**

- Continued as Principal Investigator on two funded projects worth more than \$1 million
  - VA Million Veterans Program (MVP) BLRD Gamma Pilot Merit – Immunogenetic Determinants of HPV-related Head and Neck Cancer in Veterans
  - VA CSR&D Merit
- Initiated as PI one funded pilot project worth \$49,000
  - COVID19 impact and risk factors in HIV+, HCV+ and Transgender veterans
- Published 11 peer-reviewed publications
- Service:
  - 2020-present – Member of the VA Million Veterans Program (MVP) Publication and Presentation (P&P) Committee
  - Spring 2012-present – Member of the VA Million Veterans Program (MVP) Planning Committee for National Research Meeting Fall 2021

### **Andrew Zimolzak, MD, MMSc**

- Continued as co-PI or co-investigator on two funded projects
  - Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation; Co-PI Safer Dx e-measures to reduce preventable delays in cancer diagnosis; \$520,162
  - R01 HS27363-01 AHRQ; Co-Investigator: Application of a Machine Learning to Enhance e-Triggers to Detect and Learn from Diagnostic Safety Events
- Published two peer-reviewed publications and five conference abstracts
- Service
  - September 2020 – Lung Precision Oncology Project, grant review section. VA Central Office (CSR&D)
- Awards
  - Excellence in Collaboration, Baylor College of Medicine Datathon, October 2020

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

### **Grants**

#### **Laura Petersen, MD, MPH, FACP**

- VA HSR&D COVID-19 RRP; Rapid assessment of national surges and variations in COVID-19 inpatient nurse staffing using a big data approach; \$174,261
- VA HSR&D IIR Grant; Medicaid Expansion and Quality, Utilization and Coordination of Health Care for Veterans with Chronic Kidney Disease; \$1,198,618

#### **Jeffrey Cully, PhD**

- VA HSR&D IIR; A pragmatic Trial of Brief CBT for Anxiety in VA Primary Care; \$1,256,805

#### **Jessica Davila, PhD**

- OAA contract; Analysis on trainee participant surveys; \$70,778

#### **Lilian Dindo, PhD**

- VA Merit RR&D; One-day Life Skills Workshop for Veterans with TBI, pain, and Psychopathology: Evaluating efficacy and mechanism of change; \$1,100,000

#### **Drew Helmer, MD**

- Airborne Hazards Burn Pit Center of Excellence; Partnership between the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety (IQeSt) and to Accelerate Learning and Impact from the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR) (PIALIA); \$1,236,583
- United States Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (DoD); Gulf War Illness Clinical Trials and Intervention Consortium; \$188,743

#### **Sylvia J. Hysong, PhD**

- HSR&D SWIFT Award; PACT Coordination during Public Health Emergencies: Impact on Quality of Care; \$50,000

### **Nipa Kamdar, PhD**

- VA HSR&D IIR Grant; Seeking Food Assistance: Food Insecure Veterans' Experiences Navigating through Systems; \$200,000

### **Nader N. Massarweh, MD, MPH**

- VA HSR&D IIR Grant; Enhancing the Efficiency of Data Collection for Surgical Quality Improvement; \$714,957

### **Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH**

- Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine; Fellowship in Diagnostic Excellence; \$40,000

### **Barbara W. Trautner, MD, PhD**

- AHRQ R01; Prevalence and Predictors of Using Antibiotics Without a Prescription in Pediatric Populations; \$100,000
- HSR&D SWIFT Award; Protecting Veterans from Harms of Inappropriate Self-Treatment for COVID-19; \$46,316

### **Donna L. White, PhD**

- MEDVAMC Seed Award; COVID-19 Impact and Risk Factors in HIV+, Hepatitis C+ and Transgender Veterans; \$49,318

## ***Publications***

- *Academic Medicine* (IF **5.354**): 1
- *American Journal of Medicine* (The) (IF **4.76**): 2
- *American Journal of Preventive Cardiology* (IF **4.435**): 1
- *Annals of Surgery* (IF **9.203**): 2
- *Annals of Surgical Oncology* (IF **4.179**): 4
- *BMJ Quality and Safety* (IF **7.226**): 5
- *Cancers* (IF **6.126**): 2
- *Cardiovascular Drugs Therapy* (IF **4.069**): 4
- *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* (IF **8.549**): 3
- *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (IF **9.117**): 2
- *Crohn's & Colitis* (IF **7.827**): 1
- *Health Affairs* (IF **5.23**): 1
- *Heart* (IF **5.213**): 1
- *Hepatology* (IF **14.679**): 1
- *Journal of the American Medical Association* (IF **45.54**): 1
- *JAMA Cardiology* (IF **12.794**): 1
- *JAMA Internal Medicine* (IF **18.652**): 1

- *JAMA Network Open* (IF **5.032**): 6
- *JAMA Surgery* (IF **13.625**): 4
- *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (IF **4.606**): 6
- *Journal of Medical Internet Research* (IF **5.03**): 1
- *Journal of American College of Surgeons* (IF **5.122**): 1
- *Journal of American Geriatrics Society* (IF **4.388**): 2
- *Journal of American Heart Association* (IF **4.45**): 1
- *Journal of American Medical Directors Association* (IF **5.325**): 1
- *Journal of Medical Informatics Association* (IF **4.112**): 1
- *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (IF **4.88**): 1
- *mBio* (IF **6.784**): 3
- *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* (IF **4.085**): 2
- *Sleep* (IF **4.805**): 3

## **Books and Book Chapters**

**Richard Street, Jr., PhD,**

- *Understanding Clinical Negotiation*

**Lilian Dindo, PhD**

- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) in behavioral medicine. In: *Manual Internacional de Fundamentos Teóricos e Práticos da Terapia de Aceitação e Compromisso* [International Handbook of Theoretical and Practical Foundations of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy]
- ACT in groups. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy*
- ACT for Chronic Health Conditions. In: *Oxford Handbook of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy*

**Sara Nowakowski, PhD, CBSM, DBSM**

- Sleep in women during pregnancy and postpartum. In: *Encyclopedia of Sleep Disorders and Circadian Rhythms* (2nd Ed.)
- CBT for menopause and postmenopause. In: *Adapting Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia*

## **CENTERS**

### ***Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQuEST)***

The Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQuEST) is one of 18 competitively awarded Centers of Innovation (COIN). Over the years, IQuEST has flourished as a research powerhouse with a growing operating budget, primarily from grants and contracts, and a national reputation for excellence in health services research, faculty development, and scientific leadership. IQuEST is the largest center for health services research in the Southwest and houses more than 200 faculty, post-



doctoral fellows, trainees, and research staff in the Texas Medical Center. IQuEst continues to manage more than \$15 million of total VA funding and \$10 million in non-VA federal and foundation funding (FY21). This year, our investigators published 321 manuscripts in 194 peer-reviewed journals and gave 240 presentations at local and national meetings. Our work has contributed to 55 papers cited in 14 Institute for Healthcare Improvement reports, 124 papers cited in 63 clinical guidelines for patient care, one paper selected by Faculty of 1000 (F1000) as one of the top 2% of all published articles in the biology and medicine sciences and five papers cited in U.S. Centers for Disease Control-recommended programs.

IQuEst provides an inclusive environment to support, mentor and develop outstanding research leaders. IQuEst research extends from patient experience to clinical practice and outcomes of care, to the development of health care policy, and has been disseminated to key policy makers, healthcare administrative leaders, influential stakeholders and the mainstream media, as well as the best academic journals and professional scientific societies. In addition, IQuEst investigators are nationally renowned for our excellence in research involving large national healthcare databases. Within the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, we have faculty in multiple sections, including Health Services Research, Nephrology, Cardiovascular Research, Gastroenterology, Geriatrics, Rheumatology, Pulmonary/Critical Care and Infectious Diseases. In addition, our faculty is represented in several Baylor departments apart from Medicine, including Psychiatry, Pediatrics, Surgery and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

### ***Patient Safety Center of Inquiry***

This multidisciplinary team at the **Patient Safety Center of Inquiry** (physicians and professionals from a range of fields - including social science, cognitive psychology, public health, internal medicine, computer science and human factors engineering) is focused on the improvement of patient safety and the reduction of diagnostic errors. They approach this goal through several methods, ranging from the development of trigger algorithms for electronic health records (EHRs) to proactively monitoring for delays in test result follow-up to the creation of guidelines for safe EHR usage in the form of the SAFER Guides. Their research is funded by a combination of government-sponsored grants (including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service) and private foundation grants (such as the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation). The team publishes their findings in various high-impact journals and disseminates their research by speaking at events and conferences throughout the country.

### ***Health Profession Education, Evaluation and Research (HPEER)***

The Advanced Fellowship in HPEER, funded through the Office of Academic Affiliations, is an interprofessional, two-year fellowship for post-doctoral and post-masters fellows in curriculum design and implementation, evaluation, and research. HPEER fellows are trained with the knowledge and skills to lead, evaluate, and transform health professions education. There are six HPEER sites located in VA hospitals across the United States. The **Coordinating Center for Health Profession Education, Evaluation and Research** was established in 2021 with leadership from Houston, TX, and White River Junction, VT, and is physically located within IQuEst at MEDVAMC and BCM. The Coordinating Center is responsible for the development and execution of a coordinated, cohesive national HPEER program, which includes curricula development and delivery, program evaluation, continuous program improvement, site support and engagement, outreach and marketing.

### ***National VA Quality Scholars Program***

Established in 1999, the national VA Quality Scholars (VAQS) Program is the leading interprofessional fellowship program in healthcare improvement throughout North America. VAQS trains clinician leaders in quality improvement at nine VA Medical Centers, as well as an affiliate site in Toronto. Faculty and fellow scholars at the sites include physicians, nurses and associated health professionals, such as pharmacists, physical therapists and clinical psychologists. Since 2015, the **Coordinating Center for the VAQS Program**, located in IQuEST at MEDVAMC and BCM, has administered a two-year national curriculum along with a range of experiential training opportunities, national program evaluation and continuous program improvement. Upon completing the program, fellows demonstrate competence in interprofessional collaboration and teamwork, improvement methods and skills, organization and system leadership for quality and safety, research, teaching and learning.

### ***South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center***

The mission of the **South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center** (SC-MIRECC) is to promote equity in engagement, access and quality of mental healthcare for veterans facing barriers to care, especially rural veterans. Their organizational structure has four major components: Research, Education, Improving Clinical Care, and Research Training. SC-MIRECC was funded in 1998 and encompasses all or parts of four states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The Center has anchor sites at three medical centers in Houston, Little Rock, and New Orleans. It is closely aligned with the VISN 16 Mental Health Product Line, which oversees the delivery of mental healthcare and the facility Mental Health Directors. Drs. Mark Kunik and Michael Kauth are co-directors and members of IQuEST.

### ***Southeast Texas Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program***

The **SETx-GWEP** is a federally funded U01 training program partnering with health professions, schools and facilities across Southeast Texas. It is one of two GWEP programs in Texas and among a select number of federal U01-funded programs supported by the Health Resources & Services Administration. The BCM Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine Section leads a regional consortium that includes partnerships with University of Texas Houston, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, BakerRipley Senior Services, the Montrose Center, MEDVAMC, and several other area healthcare systems. The grant creates the foundation for a geriatrics training and education center with outreach across southeast Texas. The SETx-GWEP was established in July 2019 with funding until June 2024.