



health care systems research network

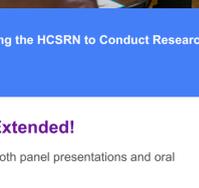
Fall 2021 Newsletter

[Visit our Website](#)

HCSRN 2022 Annual Conference April 12-14 Pasadena, CA

Promoting Collaboration and Partnerships to Advance Health Equity

The objectives of the HCSRN conference are to showcase scientific findings from HCSRN research projects, and to spur collaboration on research initiatives that improve health and healthcare for individuals and populations.

[Register](#)


Why Attend?

- Dynamic Plenary Sessions
- Oral Presentations from 19 Topic Areas
- Chance to Present and Receive Feedback on your Research
- One of a Kind Panel Presentations
- Connect with other HCSRN members for the first time since 2019!
- Networking Opportunities
- Special Topic Sessions
- Collaborate with a Diverse Set of Researchers and Health Systems
- Learn About How Other People are Using the HCSRN to Conduct Research



Submit an Abstract - Deadline Extended!

HCSRN 2022 will offer concurrent sessions for both panel presentations and oral abstracts.

Panel presentations are designed to maximize value and to attract attendees from differing backgrounds. Topics may be scientific, methodological, operational, or anything else likely to draw a large, diverse audience. You may submit a panel presentation with the topic of your choosing and create your own panel participants.

All accepted abstracts will get published in [Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Review](#).

Submission deadline is **Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 11:59:59 pm PT**.

Find more information about abstract submissions [here](#) and submit an abstract [here](#).

Content to Look Forward to

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Learning Health Systems
- Chronic Conditions, Multi-Morbidity & Aging Populations
- Maternal, Child & Family Health
- COVID-19
- Mental Health
- Health Care Delivery & Coverage
- Addiction Science/Substance Use
- Health Policy
- Health Care Delivery & Coverage Models
- Methods, Design & Analytic Tools
- Epidemiology & Surveillance
- Patient, Clinician & Health Systems Engagement
- Genomics & Precision Medicine
- Population Health Improvement
- Health Equity & Social Needs
- Technology and Digital Health

Submit an Ancillary Meeting Request

Ancillary meetings for projects and scientific interest groups are a longstanding element of the HCSRN Annual Conference and have served as incubators for many HCSRN research collaborations.

Similar to previous conferences, we have created an [Ancillary Meeting Submission page](#) so that groups can provide key details about their meeting and indicate date and time preferences. All meeting requests must go through this submission process in order to ensure adequate space for all groups and minimize overlap.

Click [here](#) to read the ancillary meeting guidelines.

VDW Update

Late September, the VIG had their annual fall meeting, and it was jam packed with presentations on the latest efforts of our workgroups, the CESR OMOP translation work, and a presentation on synthetic data.

Guest speaker, **Dr. Andy Boyd**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Health Informatics at University of Illinois Chicago, spoke on his project, titled "Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Now in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence for Health Care – ACT-Now!" MDClose is partnered on this project that plans to create synthetic derivative datasets of EHR and SDOH data that are ethnically diverse in order to challenge algorithmic biases in AI/ML.

Highlights from the workgroup presentations:

Census: The Census workgroup has done considerable work restructuring the tables to make them easier to use. The Census Demographics table has been split into two tables: Census ACS Demog and Census Decennial Demog to account for these different data sources. Sites are working towards implementation of these changes. The workgroup will begin working on 2020 maps that have been recently released.

Utilization: The Utilization presentation focused on two areas. Review of the recent QA results which highlighted the big increase in % of virtual care encounters since the 2000s, with the biggest changes happening in 2020. In addition, they discussed the potential of moving to the National Uniform Claims Committee (NUCC) provider taxonomy coding system.

Social History: call out to all who might be interested in taking over the workgroup leadership for Social History. Please contact Reesa Laws at Reesa.Laws@kpchr.org if you are interested or just want more information.

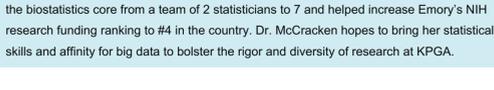
Enrollment/Demographics/Language: This presentation was focused on the results of recently returned QA from all the sites. Excellent results from the QA with some data cleaning efforts underway.

Tumor: We have two new co-leads for Tumor; Aung Oakkar (KPMAS) and Jenny Staab (KPNW) is working on a table through needed changes to this content area. The workgroup is jumping in to table restructure due to significant changes in NAACCR coding.

Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO): The new PRO tables are in the implementation phase across the sites. QA results are coming in as the sites get their tables set up. The workgroup is considering additional PROs to add in the coming year.

Lab: The lab presentation highlighted tools that were created in the QA process to help sites improve their lab table.

Member Highlight: Kaiser Permanente Georgia Center for Research and Evaluation



CRE Center for Research and Evaluation

Mission Statement

To conduct and disseminate research that positively impacts the health of our members, improves the delivery of services, and reduces health disparities

Current Projects

COVID-19 and COVID-19 Disparities Projects

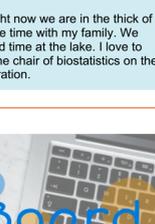
The Kaiser Permanente Georgia research team has partnered with our colleagues across the U.S. to investigate the effect of COVID-19, the symptomatology of COVID-19 and how it compares to other respiratory illnesses, and COVID-19 disparities.

The ENSPIRE Study: Engaging Staff to Improve COVID-19 Vaccination Rates at Long Term Care Facilities

Long term care facilities (LTCF) from Georgia and Washington state will be recruited into a 60-site cluster-randomized trial. The goal of the trial is to improve COVID-19 vaccination rates among staff at LTCF.

Interview with an Investigator

Dr. Courtney McCracken is a PhD trained biostatistician. Dr. McCracken has extensive experience in the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials and cohort studies. She has over 200 peer-reviewed publications in clinical research journals. Her clinical research interests include Child and Adolescent Health, Congenital Heart Disease, and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Her statistical expertise is in longitudinal modeling, survival analysis and methods for adjusting for confounding. Dr. McCracken hopes to utilize Kaiser Permanente's expansive and comprehensive data warehouse to explore variation in care and health disparities in pediatric populations.



Prior to joining the Center for Research and Evaluation, Dr. McCracken spent 9 years in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University. During this time Dr. McCracken grew the biostatistics core from a team of 2 statisticians to 7 and helped increase Emory's NIH research funding ranking to #4 in the country. Dr. McCracken hopes to bring her statistical skills and affinity for big data to bolster the rigor and diversity of research at KPGA.

1) What interests you about doing research within the area of pediatric populations?

I've always been passionate about improving the lives of children. Before entering the research arena, I was actually on track to become a high school math teacher and ended up double majoring in math and math education. Between my master's degree and my Ph.D., I interned at Arkansas Children's Hospital where I had my first introduction into pediatric research. I remember touring the neonatal intensive care unit and seeing these amazing healthcare workers care for such tiny babies. I could barely hold back my tears and here were these healthcare workers doing this every day. It was that moment that I knew I wanted to figure out a way to work in pediatrics. I eventually went to work for the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University. While many researchers have a few focused areas, like chronic diseases or cancer, I am exposed to everything in pediatrics from autism to congenital heart disease to cancer to autoimmune diseases and more. As a result, I feel like I am constantly learning something new. I have also found great colleagues and collaborators in pediatric research. It is an amazing feeling to know that you've made a difference in the lives of children.

2) What type of research studies have you been involved with since starting at KPGA?

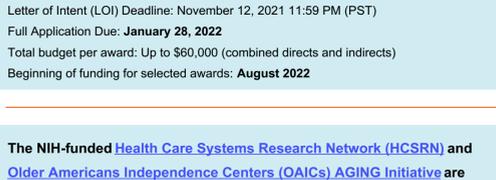
I started my position right after COVID-19 hit (May 2020). As a result, I was thrown into an array of COVID-19 studies. I've also been a part of a few research projects evaluating the impact of telemedicine on healthcare utilization and patient outcomes. I am really interested in studying patterns of vaccination and vaccine hesitancy. I am collaborating with a team of researchers at KP Washington and the University of Washington to evaluate way to improve COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and confidence among long-term care workers. I also recently received funding for a mixed-methods study to examine racial disparities in vaccination rates at KP Georgia and KP Mid-Atlantic States. Many of the studies I work on are data-only retrospective studies but I'm also collaborating on some clinical trials in suicide prevention among youth and chronic pain in adults.

3) If you could connect with other researchers, what areas and specialties would you want to connect on?

I am really interested in collaborating with other researchers that have a pediatric focus. I would love to connect with anyone that might be interested in looking at long-term outcomes of survivors of congenital heart disease or anyone interested in doing clinical trials in pediatric populations.

4) Outside of your research interests and your job at KPGA, what are you passionate about?

My spouse and I are both University of Georgia alumni, so right now we are in the thick of the college football season (Go Dawgs!). I spend most my free time with my family. We love to ride bikes, go camping, go to Georgia games, or spend time at the lake. I love to travel and try to visit a new state every year. I also serve as the chair of biostatistics on the executive board of the Congenital Cardiac Research Collaboration.



Want a rewarding job in health research? Check out career opportunities on the HCSRN [job board](#).

We list faculty and staff positions at HCSRN research centers and academic institutions as a service to the research community.

Current Openings at Advocate Aurora Health:

- Research Scientist, Patient Centered Outcomes
- Director of Scientific Research
- Director of Academic Research

For more information and to apply to a job please visit the [HCSRN job board!](#)

[Job Board](#)

Interest Group Highlights

Pharmacy Interest Group Launching in 2022!

The Pharmacy Interest Group will bring together HCSRN members and invited nonmembers to explore topics and collaborate on subjects related to pharmacy services and the continuum of the medication use process from discovery to disposal within healthcare delivery.

Scientists engaged in the Pharmacy IG will bring expertise in health outcomes, epidemiology, health services, and implementation science together to evaluate and improve medication use within health systems.

This group will hold its inaugural virtual meeting in February 2022 and plans to meet in person at the HCSRN 2022 Annual Conference in Pasadena in April. Look for meeting details in the coming months!

Research Project Management Team (RPMT) Interest Group

The intent of the new RPMT Interest Group is to connect Project Managers, Research Assistants and Research Specialists involved in healthcare systems research across the country, in order to provide a forum to share expertise, tips and tricks, task management strategies, platform testing, best practices and other collaboration/networking opportunities.

A core group meets monthly as we prepare for our inaugural 45-minute Interest Group meeting to be held on December 2, 2021. I spend most my free time with my family. We love to ride bikes, go camping, go to Georgia games, or spend time at the lake. I love to travel and try to visit a new state every year. I also serve as the chair of biostatistics on the executive board of the Congenital Cardiac Research Collaboration.

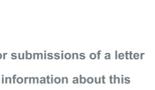
If you have questions or would like to join this interest group, please email Andrea Paolino (andrea.paolino@kp.org) or Julie Steiner (julie.steiner@kp.org).

Patient Engagement in Research (PER) Interest group

The Patient Engagement in Research Interest Group, co-led by Leslie Wright, Karen Coleman, Leah Tuzzio, and Debbie Ling Grant has been meeting on a quarterly basis virtually for webinars to share best practices, new directions in community based participatory research, and topics of interest to those hoping to engage patients and other stakeholders to play an integral role in our HCSRN research projects. We are planning to meet in person at the April 2022 conference in Pasadena.

Any person who would like to express interest in receiving our communications on the PER SIG listserv: hcsrn-engagement@lists.kp.washingtonresearch.org and/or attending either our quarterly webinar or the in-person meeting in April, please have them reach out to Debbie Ling Grant (KPSC) deborah.s.ling-grant@kp.org.

The AGING Initiative would like to share an upcoming funding opportunity on behalf of the US Deprescribing Research Network (USDn):



The US Deprescribing Research Network is pleased to announce a new Request for Applications for Pilot Awards and Grant Planning Awards. The total budget per award is up to \$60,000 over 1 year (combined directs and indirects), and one of several awards will be made in collaboration with the AGING Initiative.

[Click here to read more about the two RFAs.](#)

Key Information:

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline: November 12, 2021 11:59 PM (PST)

Full Application Due: **January 28, 2022**

Total budget per award: Up to \$60,000 (combined directs and indirects)

Beginning of funding for selected awards: **August 2022**

The NIH-funded Health Care Systems Research Network (HCSRN) and Older Americans Independence Centers (OAICs) AGING Initiative are launching a new Clinical Scholars Program intended to catalyze an expansion of interdisciplinary research relevant to the science of Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCCs).

The program will create a cohort of emerging leaders who are committed to pursuing training and collaborative opportunities to align their research interests and agendas with issues relevant to the health and healthcare of older adults with MCCs.

The AGING Initiative will select up to 10 scholars per year. The scholarships will provide travel and accommodations for an overnight training workshop to be held April 27-29 in the Washington DC area (with contingencies for COVID-19). Over the subsequent year, scholars will participate in webinar-based curriculum on MCC research, engaging patient and caregiver history, and career and leadership development. The MCCs Scholars Program aims to foster a nationwide community and mentoring network to extend and sustain MCCs research.

What is MCC Research and Why is it Important?

There is increasing recognition that the most common "chronic condition" in older adults is multiple chronic conditions (MCCs). Yet, due to the dominance of a disease-specific approach to chronic research, there is a dearth of strong research evidence to guide clinical practice and inform shared clinical decision-making relevant to the care of patients with MCCs. Developing partnerships with patients and caregivers is a key component of studying MCCs.

Who should apply to the MCC Scholars Program?

Scholars must meet the following criteria:

- MD, PhD, or equivalent degree (e.g. DO, AudD, DPT)
- Evidence of commitment to research in a field relevant to MCCs and/or aging
- Preference will be given to applicants who are in earlier stage of career (e.g., not yet received an R01 or tenure, or attained these milestones only recently)
- Must attend the workshop on April 27-29, 2022 and 6 webinars during the Scholarship year (may attend additional webinars in future years, if desired)

We encourage applications from trainees, early stage investigators, and individuals from groups under-represented in research careers (e.g., women, ethnic/racial minorities, people with disabilities). We seek applicants

who (1) wish to collaborate with other investigators interested in MCCs, or (2) have research activities that could be enhanced by the data resources and/or expertise available through the AGING Initiative. MCCs Scholars do not need to be affiliated with the HCSRN or OAICs.

How do I apply for the MCCs Scholars Program?

Applications should be submitted electronically to the submission site. An updated NIH biosketch is required as well as short responses (400 words or less) to describe: 1) Your interests and aspirations related to MCC research, 2) Prior accomplishments and/or evidence of potential to lead or participate in collaborative research, 3) How your work will have an impact on patients living with MCCs, and 4) Your goals for participating in the MCC Scholars Program. The online application can be found at: http://bit.ly/AGING_MCCs-Scholars_App

What should I do if I have additional questions?

An informational webinar about the Scholars Program will be held on November 8th from 3-4pm ET: [Webinar Registration](#). If you miss the informational webinar, a recording will be posted here: [Webinar Recording](#). Inquiries can also be made directly to Ivan Abi-Elias at Ivan.Abi-Elias@meayershealth.org

Key Dates:

Announcement Release: October 27, 2021

Informational Webinar: November 8, 2021

Applications Due: January 7, 2022 at 11:59pm ET

Selected Scholars Notified: February 16, 2022

MCCs Scholars Workshop: April 27-29, 2022



Network for Investigation of Delirium

Network for Investigation of Delirium (NIDUS) is asking for submissions of a letter of intent for a NIDUS-II delirium research grant. For more information about this process, please go to their website: <https://deliriumnetwork.org/pilots/>.

Here are some key summary points about the grants:

1. If you submit a strong 1-page letter of intent, you will be selected for a collaborative award of \$1,000.
2. They are planning to award up to 10 collaborative awards.
3. All those who receive collaborative awards will be invited to apply for \$40,000 pilot grants.
4. The 1-page letter of intent is due on **November 15, 2021**.
5. Announcements of successful letter of intents will be made **December 30, 2021**
6. The purpose of the collaborative award is to enable you to build a team for the pilot study.
7. All successful collaborative awardees must undergo a Methods consultation to assist with study design and statistical approaches.
8. The deadline for the 4-page pilot grant application is **April 1, 2022**.
9. The intention of the pilot grant is to create a foundation for a substantial federal or equivalent grant.
10. At least one of the following priority areas must be addressed in the pilot grant:
11. Inter-Relationship of Delirium and AD/ADRD: studies on risk factors, pathophysiology, and treatment.
12. Harmonization and refinement of delirium measurement tools.
13. Biomarker and mechanistic studies to advance our understanding of the pathophysiology of delirium and to identify therapeutic targets.
14. Clinical Trials—Intervention Development studies for future clinical trials, especially of delirium treatment.

For more information about the collaborative awards and pilot grants, please contact: nidus@nsl.harvard.edu.

