



WELCOME

A Note from HCSRN Executive Director, Jeanette May

Spring has sprung and we are in the final planning stages for the HCSRN 2021 Virtual Conference! Thanks to the hard work of our Planning Committee we have an amazing program on topics that are both timely and inspiring. Much of this newsletter is devoted to offering you a peek at what is planned for the two-day virtual conference. Take a look and share with your colleagues as well. Hope to see you at the conference!



Looking Forward and Embracing Change-
Preparedness for the Future During Uncertain Times

READ WHAT OUR PLENARY SPEAKERS HAVE TO SAY

We asked our plenary speakers to respond to this question:

What type of action from HCSRN members would you like to see ignited as it relates to your presentation and to the conference's theme of "looking forward and embracing change?"



Lisa Simpson, MB, BCh, MPH, FAAP
May 11th 8:00am-9:00am PT

The last year has revealed the best and the worst of care in this nation. We have shown that we can pivot and change care far more quickly than ever imagined. We have all been shown the very real impact of health disparities in the myriad deaths and profound loss devastating Black and Brown communities. And we have witnessed the toll on health professionals. What we must do now is learn from these myriad changes and the HCSRN has the unique ability, indeed responsibility, to not waste this opportunity to assess what worked, the nuanced impact on different patients, communities, clinicians and systems. With this knowledge, we can embrace the changes that resulted in better care and outcomes, and shed those that resulted in waste or poorer outcomes. Dr. Simpson will explore this theme in the context of the larger challenges facing health services research and what AcademyHealth is doing to support the field.

Cara V. James, PhD
May 12th 8:00am-8:45am PT



I hope that HCSRN members come away with a belief and understanding that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. Specifically, I hope that HCSRN members will feel encouraged and empowered to explore how they can apply and equity lens to their work, that they will seek to understand where disparities exist and what is driving them, and that they will have the courage to tackle the tough issues necessary for us to achieve health equity.



Vincent Liu, MD, MS
May 12th 1:10pm-2:00pm PT

I believe that HCSRN has a pivotal leadership role to play in improving US healthcare through realizing the vision of the learning healthcare system: to enable a virtuous cycle of improvement driven by self-learning from each patient under our care. However, to achieve this, we will need to effectively leverage emerging tools from Data Science like AI/ML predictive modeling, causal inference methods, real-time data interoperability, and rapid-cycle prospective evaluation approaches. When paired with HCSRN's expertise in Delivery Science, we will be poised to drive new innovations, improve patient outcomes, and enhance healthcare value as a routine part of our care.

PANELS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

HCSRN is excited to host 12 panels at this year's Conference. Scroll down for a deeper dive into 3 panels you don't want to miss! Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more panels to be featured!

The Minnesota EHR Consortium: Rapid Scale-Up of a Distributed Data Network for Statewide Reporting on COVID-19 Cases, Testing, and Vaccination

The Minnesota Electronic Health Record (EHR) Consortium is a voluntary collaboration among Minnesota health systems and is open to any health system serving patients in the state of Minnesota. It is supporting a coordinated public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Summary information is provided by each contributing health system and combined to provide weekly reports in a dashboard format. In its newest update the Consortium is merging de-identified de-identified and deduplicated COVID-19 vaccination data from the Minnesota statewide vaccination registry with EHR data from participating health systems through a de-identified one-way hash ID linkage. Resulting summary data will be used to report on vaccine distribution by key socio-demographic factors and comorbidities. These factors are not included in the vaccine registry and are critical for monitoring potential disparities and gaps in vaccine administration across Minnesota. This work fosters collaboration to understand where and how the disease progresses, to plan for capacity and operational needs, and to complement other data that inform the State's response efforts. The EHR Consortium provides robust information not available elsewhere on race, ethnicity, preferred language, and geographic location.

Pre-COVID-19 Telehealth and Virtual Care at Three Kaiser Permanente Regions: Development and Use of a Common Data Model to Evaluate Patient Factors and Patterns of Care

COVID-19 resulted in a dramatic shift towards telemedicine and virtual visits (VV), but telehealth was underway before 2020. We recently completed a pre-COVID (Jan/16-Dec/19) retrospective study evaluating trends, case-mix, and factors associated with adult primary care and behavioral health VV encounters across 3 Kaiser Permanente regions. We describe telemedicine trends pre-COVID, data and methodological considerations for developing a Common Data Model (CDM), and practice variation associated with VV. Our team successfully harmonized data from >1 million members' in-person visits (IPVs) and multiple-modes of VVs across three healthcare systems. We will describe the framework and validation of our CDM, summarize utilization by mode overtime, discuss extensions of the data for future research, including expanding the HCSRN VDW. We assessed member characteristics associated with adult primary care (APC) visits, and for those with >1 APC encounters of any type, we evaluate the patient-level factors associated with VV use. This presentation will discuss methodological considerations for these analyses and highlight differences in VV utilization across regions. With the emergence of telemedicine, patients and payers need assurance the level of care in a VV is comparable to IPV. Providers need to feel confident patients will fulfill service orders from VVs. This presentation will discuss the effect of visit mode (IP vs. VV) on orders (e.g., lab, pharmacy, imaging, and screening) and fulfillment rates across four conditions: neck and back pain, urinary tract infection, acute respiratory infection and depression.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Health Plan Enrollment and Non-COVID Quality and Outcomes

Through its devastating effects on health and the economy, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to health insurance plans beyond direct COVID-19-related morbidity and mortality. Panelists will present findings and experiences from a regional health plan in New England. Dr. Alon Peltz will address the impact of the pandemic on insurance coverage loss and equity using longitudinal data to compare monthly rates of disenrollment by race and ethnicity. Dr. Laura Garabedian will address the impact of the pandemic on enrollment in Affordable Care Act exchange plans during Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs). Dr. Frank Wharam will address the impact of the pandemic on time-sensitive health outcomes. We assessed rates of acute diabetes complications; time-sensitive, serious bacterial infections (non-upper respiratory); and heart failure, myocardial infarction, and stroke from before to after the pandemic onset. Dr. Michael Sherman, Chief Medical Officer at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, will discuss how these findings can be used to inform health plan decision making in the pandemic, and describe the challenges faced by health plans in the pandemic and strategies used to achieve population health, quality, and equity goals.

[Register Today!](#)

Oral Abstract Topics

- Health Equity
- COVID-19
- Chronic Conditions
- Mental Health
- Data Science/ Technology and Digital Health
- Patient, Clinician and Health System Engagement
- Implementation Science

Ancillary Meetings

These meetings present an opportunity to collaborate and discuss opportunities with researchers who have similar interests. No preregistration needed! Mark your calendar!



Learning Health Systems

May 11th 10:30am-11:30am PT

The newly established HCSRN Learning Health Systems (LHS) Scientific Interest Group (SIG) mission is to bring together members and nonmembers to explore topics related to learning health systems and ultimately help health systems across the country achieve the Quadruple Aim through science. This year's ancillary meeting will focus on specifying concrete LHS SIG goals and actions to achieve this purpose.

Sentinel

May 12th 6:30am-7:50am PT

Open to all HCSRN investigators, this session will address three kinds of research opportunities: 1) current and anticipated Sentinel activities, including COVID-19 portfolio; 2) industry supported studies that use the Sentinel distributed dataset; and 3) federally and not-for-profit funded observational studies and embedded pragmatic trials build on the Sentinel distributed dataset. In every case there are opportunities to lead and participate in studies involving national insurers as well as HCSRN organizations.

Cancer Research Network

May 11th 10:30am-Noon PT

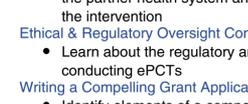
Since 1999 the Cancer Research Network has brought together researchers from across the HCSRN to collaborate on cancer research topics spanning the care continuum. While no longer funded directly by the NCI, members continue to meet and develop research projects that take advantage of their institutions' vast data resources. This virtual meeting will serve as a place to reconnect with old collaborators as well as welcome newly interested investigators with research ideas to pursue.

AGING

May 12th 10:45am - Noon PT

The HCSRN-OAICs (Health Care Systems Research Network-Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers) "AGING" (Advancing Geriatrics Infrastructure & Network Growth) Initiative Ancillary Meeting will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about current activities and opportunities from the AGING Initiative, collaborations with other networks and initiatives related to multiple chronic conditions, as well as featuring relevant poster presentations that were featured at HCSRN.

Fun Stuff!



- Attendee Participation Leaderboard
 - cash prizes for top participants
- Awards
 - Poster of the Year
 - Mentor of the Year
 - Early Investigator of the Year
 - Paper of the Year
- ePoster Session - Live Q&A
 - Enter virtual rooms filled with ePoster authors and ask your questions live!

As promised! The full agenda for the NIH Collaboratory Workshop is here!



WORKSHOP AGENDA DAY 1

Session 1 11:00am - Noon PT
What Are Embedded PCTs (ePCTs)?

- Identify key considerations in the design and conduct of ePCTs and how they differ from explanatory trials
- Learn why a critical element in the success of an ePCT is engaging health system partners at all levels and through all phases of the study
- Understand the real-world priorities and perspectives of health system leaders and how to obtain their support
- Identify challenges of partnering across diverse health systems

Measuring Outcomes

- Describe methods for measuring outcomes using data sources such as electronic health records (EHRs) and patient-reported outcomes (PROs)

Session 2 2:15pm - 3:15pm PT
ePCT Design & Analysis

- Learn about cluster-randomized and stepped-wedge study designs
- Recognize the analytical challenges and trade-offs of pragmatic study designs, focusing on what PIs need to know

*Includes Q&A with attendees

WORKSHOP AGENDA DAY 2

Session 3 6:45am - 7:45am PT
Pilot & Feasibility Testing

- Identify why it's important to do a pilot study to maximize acceptability, maintain affordability, and consider scalability of the ePCT intervention
- Learn key approaches to evaluating the capabilities of the partner health system and testing key elements of the intervention

Ethical & Regulatory Oversight Considerations

- Learn about the regulatory and ethical challenges of conducting ePCTs

Writing a Compelling Grant Application

- Identify elements of a compelling ePCT application
- Tips on NIH matchmaking

Session 4 11:00am - Noon PT
ePCTs in Context: Panel Discussion

- Demonstration of case studies from three Collaboratory Demonstration Projects: ICD-Pieces, LIRE, and OPTIMUM

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Patient Engagement in Research Scientific Interest Group Quarterly Webinar

Please contact Debbie Ling Grant deborahs.ling-grant@kp.org to be added to the invitation.

You can join the webinar using the information below
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
 +1 213-533-9530 United States, Los Angeles (Toll)
 Conference ID: 951 211 37#

April 27th, 11 am -12pm PT/2pm-3 pm ET

Featuring: Dr. Tumaini Coker, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of General Pediatrics

"Development of a Health Equity Research Community Advisory Council."

About the speaker:

Tumaini Rucker Coker, M.D., MBA is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of General Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Her research focuses on community-engaged design and evaluation of innovative interventions to reduce socioeconomic disparities of care among children, and on primary care practice redesign for children in low-income communities. Dr. Coker practices primary care and teaches medical students and residents at Seattle Children's Odessa Brown Children's Clinic.

