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December 02, 2020



HCSRN's Holiday Newsletter

WELCOME

Happy Holidays and welcome to our revised HCSRN Newsletter! We have been working to create a format and include content of interest to our members. We hope you enjoy the news and highlights included in this latest edition. The HCSRN Newsletter is quarterly and we are always looking for member news to highlight. Please reach out to me if you have ideas – Jeanette.c.may@healthpartners.com

Be safe and enjoy the wonderful holiday season!

Jeanette May
HCSRN Executive Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HCSRN December Scientific Data Resources Forum

December 8th, 4 pm ET

Epic Cosmos and Epic Research Initiatives

Our December Scientific Data Resources Forum (SDRF) will feature two speakers integrally involved in the development and implementation of Epic Cosmos, Epic's developing data warehouse, and the Epic Health Research Network. Matt Doyle will provide an overview of the warehouse and its basic form and format. Dr. Nichole Quick will address the research Epic has been involved in and where it may go in the future. Below are briefs on each of the speakers. We look forward to

your participation in this seminar discussing this new development designed to enhance patient care and outcomes.



Matt Doyle, Software Developer

Matt is a software developer working to advance observational research using health record data collected during clinical care. He has 13 years of experience working on safety-critical applications, including extensive experience exchanging clinical data to facilitate treatment, both within the USA and abroad. Past work has involved collaboration with non-profit and federal agencies to advance information standards & improve access to clinical information. He holds a BS in computer science from Brigham Young University.



Nichole Quick, MD, MPH

Nicky brings over a decade of diverse healthcare and public health experience to Epic's work to improve population health and preventive care. She is part of the Epic Health Research Network team focusing on rapid sharing of new medical knowledge by bringing observational data directly to physicians and researchers. She is trained in preventive medicine, public health and addiction medicine.

**The AGING Initiative MCCs
Scholars Program
Application Deadline:
January 8th, 2021**



The AGING Initiative MCCs Scholars Program creates a cohort of emerging leaders who are committed to pursuing training and collaborative opportunities to align their research interests with issues relevant to the health and healthcare of older adults with MCCs!

View the recording from our MCCs Scholars Informational Webinar to hear the program leads and patient/caregiver advisors address questions from potential applicants: [Watch Here!](#)

The submission deadline for MCCs Scholars applications is January 8, 2021. To learn more, please see the [request for applications \(RFA\)](#), as well as the [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#)



The banner features a background of overlapping teal and orange shapes. At the top left is the URL 'www.hcsrn.org'. At the top right is the HCSRN logo with the text 'health care systems research network'. The main text reads: 'We are getting excited for the HCSRN 2021 Conference! Are you?'. Below this, on the left, is an illustration of a female doctor in a white coat and blue pants, and the text 'Spring 2021'. On the right, there is an illustration of a male nurse in blue scrubs, and the text 'Stay tuned for more details!'.

HCSRN Conference

Spring, 2021

Don't fret! We are still having our annual Spring conference.

We are so excited to once again collaborate, learn, and converse with everyone. More details will be released soon; make sure you are checking for emails from HCSRN and follow us on [Twitter!](#)

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

HCSRN New Member: St. Louis University/SSM Health

HCSRN is excited to welcome our newest member: St. Louis University (SLU) and SSM Health. On Tuesday, November 10th HCSRN held our Scientific Data Research Forum where leaders of the SLU Advanced Health Data Institute (AHEAD) gave our audience a look into their research.

SLU, the AHEAD Institute, and SSM Health cover five states in the Midwest. They are able to provide a plethora of knowledge and research due to their collaborative team of faculty, clinicians, and researchers from many schools within SLU, their medical practice (SLUCare), and their partner health system (SSM Health). The three pillars of the AHEAD Institute are Data Warehousing, Research Support, and Innovation – all things HCSRN values greatly as well.

The AHEAD institute brings together researchers and clinicians from many fields and disciplines to help improve patient and population health, advance health care, and decrease health care costs. The list of AHEAD faculty interests and expertise is expansive and includes topics such as health equity and health

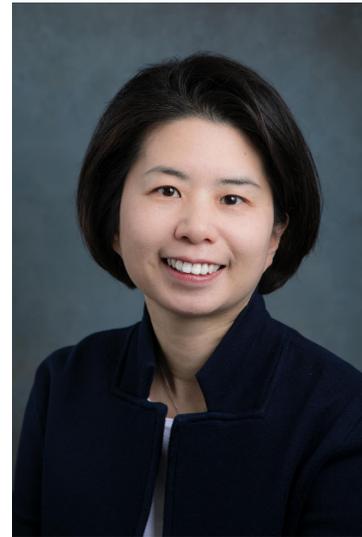
disparity, oncology, diabetes, physical therapy, addiction and opioid use, mental health, and many more. They clearly illustrated this to us, as we heard from six members of the research staff, each with their own specialty.

Leslie Hinyard, PhD, MSW, and Director discussed her research with cancer, health disparities, and health equity. Jeffery Scherrer, PhD and Associate Director of Research who specializes in mental health, dementia, and opioids. Rick Grucza, PhD, MPE is interested in alcohol and drug use, opioids, and health policy. Kenton Johnston, PhD, MPH has expertise in value-based payment, risk adjustment, and vulnerable populations. We also heard from Sarah Gebauer, MD who does her research in Osteoarthritis and Social determinants of health.

Investigating a Junior Investigator: Dr. Jinmyoung Cho

Jinmyoung was interviewed by Emma Kroll. Emma is the Communications Intern for HCSRN.

Dr. Jinmyoung Cho is an Assistant Investigator at Baylor Scott & White Health Center for Applied Health Research in Texas. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the School of Public Health and Faculty Affiliate of Center for Population in Aging at the Texas A&M Health Science Center. With a focus on improving health and well-being among older adults, her research area spans healthcare utilization in aging populations to the evaluation of evidence-based programs for older adults and their caregivers in community.



Emma: How has your doctorate research helped you in your current role with Baylor Scott & White (BSWH)?

Jinmyoung: I would say that my doctorate major in human development and family studies has been a foundation of my research in promoting health and well-being among older adults and their caregivers in diverse settings. In terms of human development, individuals continue to interact with factors from different levels (e.g., family, community, culture), and this influences personal decisions and behaviors across the life span.

Emma: What type of research studies have you been involved with since starting at BSWH?

Jinmyoung: I started my post-doctoral training at BSWH. During this period, I expanded my research boundaries from the individual-level to the population-level, focusing on aging and public health with an emphasis on the implementation and evaluation of health interventions for older adults and their family caregivers. I have continued this research in my current position as an Assistant Investigator. Currently, my research primarily focuses on two areas. I have been working with Dr. Stevens on his dementia caregiving studies, where I have had the chance to see the effectiveness of evidence-based caregiver support intervention in community settings. I am also developing my own project to characterize the health risks of spousal dementia caregivers using self-reports of physical health and functioning, clinical health indicators, and health care utilization data represented in electronic health records (EHR).

Emma: Given that Texas has such dense urban areas as well as highly rural areas, how does that effect your research?

Jinmyoung: It has given a diversity in my research. Before came to Texas, I was in Iowa. Moving into Texas has allowed me to study diverse population such as more African American and Hispanic older adults. For example, I presented racial/ethnic variations in the quality of life among dementia caregivers enrolled in caregiver support programs at a national scientific meeting, Gerontological Society of America.

Emma: Have you noticed any changes in your specialty research since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Jinmyoung: The COVID-19 pandemic did not change my research interest. But I noticed there are some changes to the research procedure. For example, recruiting research participants is harder than before because there are less patients around and limited resources to access to patients. I also noticed that collecting data through online and/or phone call instead of in-person interviews is another challenge. Because of age-related physical changes, some participants may experience visual or hearing difficulties when conducting virtual or phone call interviews. So, survey assessments and documents should be emailed or shipped (including return labels and postage), then, they are able to complete the interview process.

Emma: Outside of your research interests and your job at BSWH, what are you passionate about?

Jinmyoung: I like cooking. Given my Asian background, I enjoy putting Asian features into recipes when I cook new foods. One of my signature foods is chicken kimchi enchiladas.

VDW UPDATE

An update on our Virtual Data Warehouse (VDW)

COVID-19 continues to play a major role influencing the efforts of our active work groups. The labs work group has had to keep up with many changes in the commonly used LOINC coding systems to allow for proper maintenance and mapping to our common data model. Changes have been frequent and the work group has been busy making sure our various sites keep up with the updates. Special thanks to work group lead Gwen Saylor for staying on top of this and moving things forward.

Our utilization work group has also been experiencing many coding additions and changes that require efforts similar to our laboratory group. In addition, the dramatic increase in telehealth and the projected long term increase in use of this methodology for care has the group discussing the many different ways and methods care is both delivered and documented at their organizations. There will likely be several additions to the utilization table to cover telehealth. Work is moving quickly, but there is a lot to consume. Our co-leads, Heather Tavel and Dan Ng along with the entire group have put in a tremendous level of time and effort.

Census is moving closer to completing a broad review of census data and verifying quality assurance completion. Additionally they are considering a recommendation that would have sites make available to researchers both the regular census data as well as the periodic estimates of change (ACS data) that can be key to various studies. Thanks to Catherine Cleveland for stepping in and leading this group in their substantial efforts.

Our other workgroups continue to meet as needed and have also had some of their activity directed towards Covid 19 issues, but to a lesser extent than the laboratory and utilization work groups. Keeping on top of the quality assurance efforts has been a regular effort for our work group leads. Thanks to all for their time and commitment to the remarkable product represented within our VDW.



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