

August 2014

THE WINDOW



A round-up of JHF news, events, milestones, publications, and more.

Pittsburgh Chapter of Grandmother Power Launches to Boost HPV Vaccinations, Fight Cancer

Grandmother Power has illuminated villages in India, improved care for AIDS orphans in Africa, and instilled a love of reading in children from South America.

On August 20, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) held a press conference in the QI²T Center to announce the arrival of Grandmother Power in Pittsburgh. More than a dozen grandmothers donned aprons featuring Rosie the Riveter and discussed the importance of vaccinating boys and girls against the human papillomavirus (HPV) virus, which can cause cervical, vaginal, vulvar, oropharyngeal, penile, and anal cancers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has named HPV as the fourth-largest public health threat in the United States for 2014.

Grandmother Power is part of a larger initiative among JHF, the Women and Girls Foundation, the Eye and Ear Foundation, and The Grable Foundation to increase uptake of the HPV vaccine, which is currently at an unacceptably low rate. An advisory committee of community activists, clinicians, educators, and administrators is tailoring HPV vaccination outreach messages to specific audiences.

(Continued on page 2)



Inaugural members of Pittsburgh's chapter of Grandmother Power (L-R): JHF Consultant Susan Elster, PhD; Cecile Springer, co-founder of the Women and Girls Foundation; Joyce Penrose, NP, an adjunct associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Nursing; community advocates Dorene Murphy and Anna Helenkamp; Ruth DeLost-Wylie, senior vice president and chief innovation officer at Peoples Natural Gas; Eileen Lane, former president of the Family Health Council (now Adagio Health); Patricia Siger, chair of the PRHI Board and a consultant for the United Way of Allegheny County; Dodie Roskies, director of the Pittsburgh Victor Center; JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD; and Sharon Silvestri, chief of the Allegheny County Health Department's Infectious Diseases Program.

Inside this issue

Pittsburgh Chapter of Grandmother Power Launches to Boost HPV Vaccinations	1
JHF Board of Trustees Approves Four Grants	3
2014 Fine Awards Finalists Announced	5
Regional HIV Strategic Collaborative to Strengthen Care Continuum	6
JHF Hosts HIV-AIDS Panel	7
MAI Phase 1 Grantees Exceed Return-to-Care Goal by 91 Percent	9
Summer Interns Showcase Projects to JHF, HCF Boards	10
Feinstein Moderates Healthcare Workforce Panel at Governor's Jobs 1st Summit	12
RAVEN Haven Celebrates Frontline Staff	12
IOM Report Calls for GME Funding Overhaul	13
CQEL Summer Meeting	13
LTC Expert Joanne Lynn Visits JHF	14
2014 Salk Fellowship Focuses on Systems Thinking, Population Health	14
QIN Update	15
New Staff	15
Congratulations to HCF Board's Josh Blatter	16



(Continued from page 1)

“Grandmother Power is not an organization — it’s a movement,” JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, said during the press conference. “What better time to kick off our chapter than during National Immunization Awareness Month? By harnessing the power of women who care deeply about the health and future of their grandchildren, we can bring attention to the fact that so many of our young people are not taking advantage of one of the few vaccines in the world that prevents a whole host of cancers.”

Approximately 79 million Americans have HPV, which can infect both sexes. Children can be protected against many HPV-related diseases if they receive three vaccine doses before being exposed to the virus, but less than 38 percent of girls between the ages of 13-17 receive three doses of the HPV vaccine, according to the CDC’s 2013 National Immunization Survey. Just 14 percent of boys between 11-12 years old receive three doses.

“I have an 11 year-old grandson, and I hadn’t previously thought of the dangers to which this age group is exposed,” said Cecile Springer, a founder of the Women and Girl’s Foundation and inaugural Grandmother Power member. “We have a strong message, and we need to talk with large groups in our community to effect change. I’m ready.”



Cecile Springer (left) and Eileen Lane rally fellow members of Grandmother Power, who will use their collective strength to protect children and young adults against HPV-related diseases.

So is Eileen Lane, a former president of the Family Health Council (now Adagio Health). Grandmothers can communicate with parents, physicians, schools, and other neighborhood groups to decrease the estimated 26,000 new cancers attributable to HPV each year.

“Grandmothers come in all shapes, sizes, ages and hair colors, and from different races, religions, and backgrounds,” Lane said. “But what we have in common is the delight we take in our grandchildren – the love and caring we feel towards them, and the deep concern we have for their well-being. This public health imperative calls on grandmothers to unite, advocate, and speak out.”

Pediatricians can help ensure that children’s healthcare decision makers (parents, grandmothers, or other guardians) understand the benefits of the vaccine, said Ana Radovic, an adolescent medicine physician and pediatrician at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC who participated in a Q and A session with the press and Grandmother Power members.

“Many people today use the internet to get their health information,” Dr. Radovic noted. “It’s our role as health advocates to provide them with the correct information. The important message is: ‘this vaccine can prevent cancer.’”

Additional activist grandmothers are being recruited from all neighborhoods in the Greater Pittsburgh area and, in September, Pittsburgh’s Grandmother Power group will unite to develop a community outreach strategy. If you are interested in joining,

GRANDMOTHER POWER, HPV VACCINE INITIATIVE MAKING HEADLINES

[“Pittsburgh grandmothers band together, help tackle HPV prevention”](#) (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

[“Grand effort: Grannies give HPV vaccinations a welcome boost”](#) (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

[“JHF joins Girls Foundation in vaccine project”](#) (Pittsburgh Business Times)

TO WATCH THE PRESS CONFERENCE, VISIT OUR [YOUTUBE PAGE](#)

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

please contact HPV Vaccination Initiative Coordinator [Sue Steele](#).

“The one thing we need is people who aren’t afraid to speak up about this issue,” Dr. Feinstein said. “The HPV vaccine is covered by insurance, and it has proven to be safe and effective. Let’s get the job done.”



Ana Radovic, MD, an adolescent medicine physician and pediatrician at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, answers questions about the HPV vaccine from grandmothers and media members during the kickoff event.



By launching a Grandmother Power chapter, Pittsburgh joins an organization with activists fighting disease, hunger, illiteracy, and other issues on six continents.

JHF Board of Trustees Approves Four Grants

The JHF Board of Trustees approved four grants totaling \$176,000. Presented to the Board of Trustees by Debra L. Caplan, JHF board member and chair of the distribution committee, the grants included:



JHF President and CEO Karen Feinstein with Alan R. Guttman, chair of the foundation’s board.

- \$20,000 to the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh/JFilm to partner on outreach, education, and advocacy initiatives addressing sexual violence on college campuses;
- \$50,000 to establish a JHF-PRHI physician Executives-in-Residence program;
- \$40,000 to the United Way of Allegheny County and Consumer Health Coalition to support coordination and education needs of the community during the second insurance enrollment period; and
- \$66,000 to renew the Foundation’s fair share contribution to the Allegheny Conference on Community Development’s annual budget.

Brave Miss World: Addressing Dating Violence and Sexual Assault on Campus

About one out of every five undergraduate women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, many colleges and universities have yet to create a safe environment for women by educating students about abusive relationships and legal protections available to victims; establishing clearly defined reporting policies; ensuring a fair judicial process; and engaging in conversations with policy-makers, service agencies, and the community at large.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

To address the endemic issue of campus violence, JHF will collaborate with JFilm Executive Director Kathryn Spitz Cohan on a campaign designed to identify policies and procedures that will enhance security for women. JFilm, working with campus groups, administrators, and educators, will present 20 free screenings on college campuses, during the 2014-2015 school year, of an award-winning film depicting the brutal rape and response of a young woman. The screenings will be followed by discussion facilitated by the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR).

JFilm will also engage campus health services, fraternities and sororities, women's groups, and other community health resources for outreach and education. JFilm's broad coalition will include "Man Up Against Violence," a new organization recognizing the role that men play in reducing violence against women.



"We as a community are saying, 'we've had it,'" Dr. Feinstein says. "The goal is to get campus violence taken seriously — it is a criminal offense, and it should be treated as such."

Physician Executives in Residence

JHF will pilot a Physician Executives-in-Residence program, in which one seasoned and one early-career physician will contribute to projects at the Foundation and JHF's Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) operating arm.

The physicians recommended for the pilot project are Ralph Schmeltz, MD, former president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and a clinical professor of internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Jonathan Weinkle, MD, an internist at the Squirrel Hill Health Center.

Connecting Uninsured Pennsylvanians to Health Coverage



[In continuation of JHF efforts to ensure a successful first enrollment period in our community](#), JHF will provide funding to the United Way of Allegheny County (UWAC) and the Consumer Health Coalition (CHC) during the second enrollment period (November 2014 to February 2015) for key services that will be shared throughout the region. The UWAC's Harriet Baum will continue her work as a community coordinator, and the UWAC will offer enrollment and renewal service organizations the option of scheduling appointments through the PA 2-1-1 hotline. JHF's contribution will also support a pilot program to establish text messaging and chat

services between consumers and navigators, as well as a communications campaign to engage potential enrollees through videos, social media, and a marketing tool kit. The CHC, which offers training and education to community partners and consumers alike, will receive funding for staff support.

"We want to ensure that the United Way of Allegheny County and the Consumer Health Coalition have the resources to continue being leaders in our community during the second enrollment period," says JHF Chief Operating and Program Officer Nancy Zionts. "These organizations understand that it's not just about enrolling

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

consumers in insurance plans — it's about educating consumers and helping them use their new insurance to improve health."

Allegheny Conference on Community Development Grant Renewal

JHF has been represented on the Allegheny Conference on Community Development (ACCD), a non-profit comprised of regional leaders committed to improving the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania, since Karen Feinstein became the first woman to sit on its Board and Executive Committee in 1997. Along with other public, private and philanthropic groups, JHF has provided a fair share contribution to the ACCD's budget since 2003.

With this grant, the Foundation will continue to support the ACCD's efforts to improve the health of western Pennsylvanians, which include monitoring the implementation of healthcare reform and informing members about healthcare issues affecting employers.

2014 Fine Awards Finalists Announced

Ten finalists have been selected for the [Fine Awards for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care](#), which in 2014 recognize frontline workers in the greater Pittsburgh area who elevate and disseminate best practices in infection control or pain management. Five winning teams from among these finalists will be chosen by a national panel of experts in infection control and pain management – two quality measures that influence whether providers receive incentive payments or incur penalties from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Winning teams must show evidence of sustainable quality improvement.



Established by The Fine Foundation and JHF in 2008, the Fine Awards annually honor teams that catalyze system-wide change through innovative quality improvement initiatives aimed at delivering safer, more efficient, and patient-focused care. The 2014 finalists are:

Allegheny Health Network – Allegheny Valley Hospital: Eliminating Hospital-Acquired Clostridium Difficile Infections

Allegheny Health Network – Forbes Hospital: Reducing Incidence of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections

Allegheny Health Network – Saint Vincent Health Center: Improving Safe Use of Opioid Therapy

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC: Creating a Culture of Excellence in Central Line Care

Excelsior Health: Acinetobacter – Learning How to Eradicate Resistant Organisms

St. Clair Hospital: Surgical Site Infection Prevention

The Bone and Joint Center – Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC: Reducing Surgical Site Infections in Total Joint Arthroplasty

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

UPMC McKeesport: Resolving a Sudden Increase in Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections

UPMC St. Margaret: Spinal Fusion Surgical Site Infection Prevention

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System: Regional Anesthesia and Pain Prevention for Joint Replacement

The winning teams will be unveiled at an awards ceremony on November 12 at the Carnegie Museum in Oakland. The total of all team awards will be \$80,000, an increase of \$6,000 from previous years.

To learn more about previous Fine Awards winners and see videos of their quality improvement projects, [visit JHF's website](#).

Regional HIV Strategic Collaborative to Strengthen Care Continuum in southwestern PA

On August 1, JHF hosted a meeting of service providers, consumers, and advocates who will partner to strengthen the continuum of HIV/AIDS care in southwestern Pennsylvania. The new Regional HIV Strategic Collaborative will look for opportunities to improve prevention and treatment across the 11-county region.

The collaborative will evaluate patient services, elicit consumer feedback, and develop new standards of care for the region. The group will be chaired by a different member at each meeting and is staffed by JHF's HIV/AIDS Program Director Richard Smith, MSW.



Jean Nachega, MD, PhD, MPH, associate professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, compares how effectively various countries retain HIV-positive individuals in medical care.

"There is a lot of exciting programmatic work and research for HIV service delivery in our region, but we as a community are not always aware of everything that is going on," Karen Feinstein said while welcoming collaborative members. "The goal of the collaborative is to leverage each area of your work and continually improve care for HIV-positive clients. This group belongs to you, the leaders in HIV/AIDS service delivery. We want participants to take the lead in shaping its direction."

During the meeting, collaborative members

emphasized the importance of establishing a broader network by discussing HIV/AIDS as a condition that is often managed alongside other chronic diseases. They also expressed interest in forming closer ties with service organizations outside of the Ryan White network, developing a centralized case management system, and mapping out the services available at various organizations. The collaborative will consider a youth outreach campaign to prevent new infections. While 13-to-24-year-olds make up 17 percent of the U.S. population, they account for 26 percent of new HIV infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Strategic Collaborative meetings — which are designed to educate members and share ideas on prevention, outreach, and treatment — will also feature presentations by national HIV/AIDS experts. Our first guest expert, Dr. Jean Nachega, MD, PhD, MPH, an associate professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh's

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Graduate School of Public Health, provided a global overview of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Dr. Nachega noted that there are 6,000 new infections worldwide each day. Two-thirds of those infections occur in sub-Saharan Africa, primarily among young women due to economic and cultural vulnerabilities.

Dr. Nachega's research in South Africa focuses on the public health response to HIV, such as awareness campaigns on mother-to-child transmission and youth outreach that includes appointment reminders sent via text messages. He compared the HIV treatment "cascade" among various countries, showing that the U.S. lags behind France and the United Kingdom in terms of linking HIV-positive individuals to care and retaining them in medical treatment. Strengthening connections between patients, providers, service organizations, and neighborhoods is a proven strategy to improve health outcomes.

"Whether you are in Pittsburgh or Cape Town, there are still gaps in HIV/AIDS care," Dr. Nachega said during his presentation. "But community-level interventions have the potential to set us on a path to an AIDS-free generation."

JHF Hosts Panel on Past, Present, Future of HIV/AIDS

Alan Jones, a certified HIV counselor at the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF), remembers cutting deceased clients' names off pill bottles in the early 1990s so the hard-to-obtain medications could be given to others nearing death. Emanuel Vergis, MD, MS, MPH, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh's Division of Infectious Diseases, envisions a day when HIV is managed with one monthly injection and a yearly doctor's visit.

The changing nature of HIV/AIDS, from a death sentence in the 1980s to a manageable chronic illness, was the topic of a special panel hosted by JHF at the Q12T Center on August 18. Some of the region's leading activists and health experts recounted Pittsburgh's collaborative response to the epidemic and discussed remaining challenges, such as reversing a rise in HIV infections among young adults and addressing HIV-positive individuals' diverse social needs. The event also showcased "[The Fight Against AIDS 1981-2014: A Pittsburgh Story](#)," JHF's latest ROOTS publication.

Jones, who joined PATF 23 years ago after losing three close friends to AIDS, recalled the prejudice that some of his clients and their families faced. A woman caring for her dying son once asked Jones, who was visiting her son, if his car featured PATF signage. When Jones said no, she let out a sigh of relief.

"She said 'oh, thank god.' Her, boss, who was also her landlord, said that she would be out of a job if her son had AIDS," Jones said.

Fear of contracting HIV was pervasive among medical workers in the epidemic's early days, said Cyndee Klemanski, current president of the Shepherd Wellness Community and a medical social worker in the 1980s. No one knew how HIV was transmitted at the time, but frontline workers nonetheless stepped forward to care for patients —



JHF Chief Medical Officer Keith Kanel, MD, MHC, FACP, shares his experiences as an intern at Presbyterian Hospital during the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)



Emanuel Vergis, MD, MS, MPH, associate professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh's Division of Infectious Diseases, and Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, director of the Allegheny County Health Department, discuss HIV research breakthroughs and public health challenges posed by rising infection rates among young adults.

some of whom received an AIDS diagnosis in the emergency department and had just months to live.

As new information about HIV transmission and prevention strategies emerged, coalitions including HIV service providers, faith-based groups, foundations, and neighborhood organizations broke down stereotypes surrounding the disease and educated the community, noted Tony Silvestre, PhD, LSW, co-investigator of the Pitt Men's Study and professor of infectious diseases and microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health. Such broad-based support was crucial at a time when federal funds for HIV services were lacking.

"Many heroes got the very generous Pittsburgh community to open its heart to HIV," Dr. Silvestre said.

Carolyn Acker, PhD, co-founder of Prevention Point Pittsburgh, and other volunteers set up tables in the Hill District to distribute clean needles to injection drug users in 1995 — a then-illegal service that has since been shown to reduce the spread of HIV and other diseases without increasing illicit drug use.

"Because scrappy activists were doing this on the streets in Pittsburgh and all over the country, researchers could study it and demonstrate its effectiveness," Acker said.

The panel, moderated by JHF Chief Medical Officer Keith Kanel, MD, MHCM, FACP, also featured several leaders who have played a critical role in shaping JHF's response to the epidemic: Dana Phillips (who established the Ryan White Fiscal Agency at the Foundation in 1992), Barb Feige (a former JHF HIV/AIDS program director), Jason Kunzman (a former JHF chief financial and operating officer who also managed the JHF Ryan White HIV/AIDS fiscal agency), and current HIV/AIDS Program Director Richard Smith, MSW. The panelists discussed how HIV services transformed from providing comfort to terminally ill clients to meeting wide-ranging, long-term needs as antiretroviral medication helped people live longer, healthier lives.



Panelists recount Pittsburgh's response to the AIDS epidemic (L-R): Cyndee Klemanski, president of the Shepherd Wellness Center; Tony Silvestre, PhD, LSW, co-investigator of the Pitt Men's Study and professor of infectious diseases and microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health; Alan Jones, a certified HIV counselor at the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force; and Carolyn Acker, PhD, co-founder of Prevention Point Pittsburgh and an historian of medicine and health at Carnegie Mellon University.

The Foundation's current focus is linking HIV-positive individuals to medical care and retaining them in care

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

through programs such as the [Minority AIDS Initiative](#) (MAI), Smith said. But to improve health outcomes, service groups must also consider clients' mental health, substance use, housing, and care access concerns, among many others.



Four key players in JHF's response to HIV/AIDS (L-R): Dana Phillips (who established JHF's Ryan White Fiscal Agency in 1992), Barb Feige (a former JHF HIV/AIDS program director), Jason Kunzman (a former JHF chief financial and operating officer who also managed the JHF Ryan White HIV/AIDS fiscal agency), and current HIV/AIDS Program Director Richard Smith, MSW.

"For some clients, it's rare that they have transportation to get to an appointment," Smith said. "Just last winter, we bought a cord of wood to heat someone's house. Some people had been drinking rusty water, so we made a deal with an agency to provide a free dispensing system and clean water for a year. Clients have complex needs that must be addressed in between those medical appointments."

Pitt's Dr. Vergis highlighted research breakthroughs that may keep people from ever contracting HIV. One of those innovations

is a daily "PrEP" (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) pill, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says can reduce the risk of infection among high-risk populations by as much as 92 percent when taken consistently.

New HIV diagnoses declined by more than 30 percent overall from 2002 to 2011, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. Diagnoses among 13 to 24 year-olds, however, have increased.

"The changing face of this condition is a challenge to public health," said Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, director of the Allegheny County Health Department. "We need to consider new ways of identifying those who are infected and consider how to engage them, because it is a different population than it used to be."

Phase One Minority AIDS Initiative Grantees Exceed Return-to-Care Goal by 91 Percent; Phase Two under Way

A Philadelphia man, unable to care for himself due to multiple chronic illnesses including HIV, moved to central Pennsylvania to live with his mother. He had used cocaine and drank alcohol daily since his HIV diagnosis, and he had not received medical care to reduce his viral load. His mother encouraged him to contact AIDS Resource Alliance, an AIDS Service Organization (ASO) that linked him to a community health center as well as social service groups. Clean and sober for over six months, the man regularly attends medical appointments, has become a presence in his children's lives, and treks his neighborhood on a newly-purchased bike.

This client is just one success story from the MAI, a program JHF developed under a two-year grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program to re-engage HIV-positive individuals in Pennsylvania who are not receiving medical care. The initial 15 ASOs selected for the program re-engaged 860 patients in medical treatment – surpassing the grant's goal by 91 percent.

The Foundation's MAI team provided the ASOs with quality improvement and motivational interviewing training, data collection and technology assistance, and monthly webinars through which participants share strategies and

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

challenges in reaching HIV-positive individuals who are “lost to care.” The federal government considers patients lost to care if they have not seen a physician in at least 180 days, though the ASOs also identified newly-diagnosed, high-risk patients and those who recently moved to a new area.

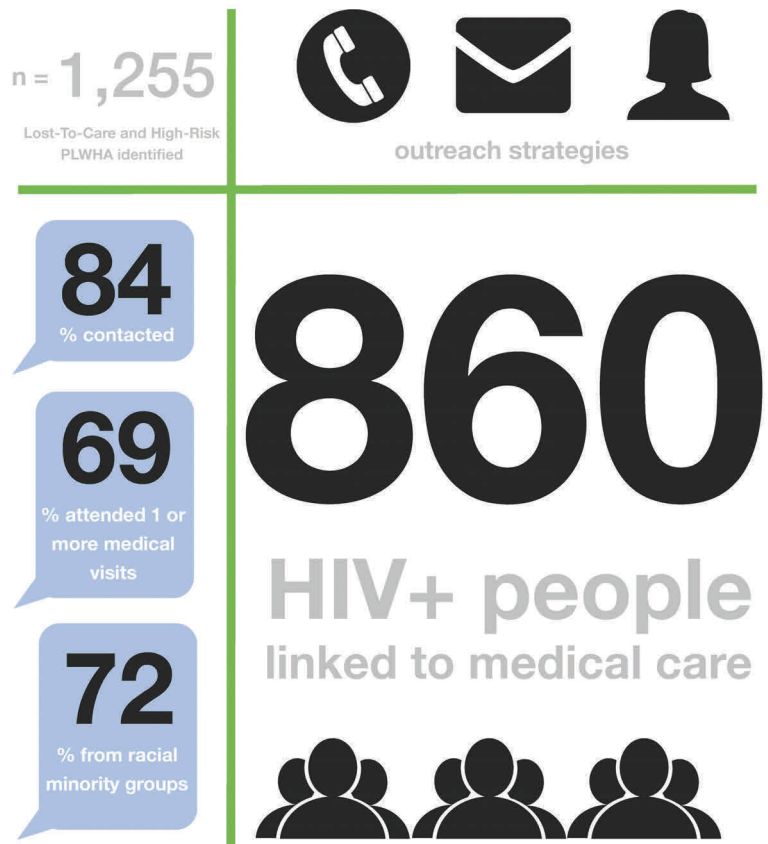
Through the end of the first grant phase on June 30, the 15 participating ASOs identified 1,255 HIV-positive individuals who were lost to care. They were able to encourage sixty-nine percent to attend at least one medical appointment, 52 percent to attend at least two, and 35 percent to attend three appointments. Of those who attended at least three appointments, 87 percent achieved an undetectable viral load. An undetectable viral load, the result of antiretroviral medication, indicates the immune system is keeping HIV in check, reducing the complications of HIV and significantly lowering the risk of transmission.

The MAI program has been so successful in part because grantees tailor re-engagement efforts to meet the needs of their particular clients, notes Deborah Murdoch, MPH, a JHF quality improvement specialist working on MAI.

“Each ASO has the flexibility to define what outreach looks like for their agency, whether they serve adolescents transitioning to adult care, the prison population, or those participating in needle exchange programs,” Murdoch says. “The outreach workers develop relationships with clients. For this at-risk population, that is crucial to breaking down barriers of care.”

While phase one of the MAI program has concluded, five of the original 15 ASOs (Action AIDS, Co-County Wellness, Open Door, Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, and Prevention Point Philadelphia) received additional “champions” funding for continued outreach initiatives through June of 2015. Five additional ASOs — Access Matters, Einstein Infectious Disease Clinic, Mon Yough Community Services, Philadelphia FIGHT, and Pinnacle Health — began participating in the MAI program in December of 2013 and will also continue through June of 2015. During phase two, agencies will work to further strengthen the statewide network of ASOs developed through the MAI program and integrate the MAI model into routine care.

HIV LINKAGE PROGRAM



Data from 15 Phase 1 sites of the Lost-To-Care Initiative. The timeframe of this data is July 31, 2012 through June 30, 2014. The Lost-To-Care Initiative is funded by Pennsylvania's Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program and HRSA's Minority AIDS Initiative.

Summer Interns Showcase Projects to JHF, HCF Boards

How difficult is it to get a medical appointment in Allegheny County? What does it cost to get a colonoscopy in Pittsburgh? What messages resonate with young adults who haven't been vaccinated against HPV?

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

These are just a few of the questions that this year's cohort of 12 interns, selected from a pool of 75 applicants, explored during their summer at JHF. In early August, these multidisciplinary students — including a physician, social worker, dentist, health historian, and two biostatisticians, among other backgrounds — showcased their projects to the JHF and Health Careers Futures Boards. Among the highlights:

- Four interns conducted a community needs assessment to gauge gaps in healthcare access in Allegheny County. The interns called 119 health centers across the county to schedule an appointment for a privately-insured “aunt” who was new to the region. Eighty-two percent of the offices answered the phone. Of those who answered, two-thirds were able to schedule an appointment for the patient in an average of nine days.



JHF 2014 summer interns (L to R): Ganda Kinikar, Dan Radin, Matthew Caplan, Kara Rogan, Samuel Kelly, Erika Ciesielski, Victor Talisa, Mariel McMarlin, Avigail Oren, Deepen Kamaraj, and Nupur Desai.

Participating interns included Matthew Caplan, a Healthcare Management and Policy undergraduate student at Georgetown University; Nupur Desai and Ghanda Kinikar, Healthcare Policy and Management graduate students at Carnegie Mellon University; and Mariel McMarlin, a Master of Social Work student at the University of Pittsburgh.

- Samuel Kelly, a Duquesne University student pursuing an MsC in Computational Mathematics, researched the cost of mammogram and colonoscopy procedures in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and began to develop a model to help patients predict their expenses.
- Erika Ciesielski, a Corporate Communications and Psychology undergraduate at Duquesne University, continues to develop outreach strategies to increase HPV vaccination rates on college campuses.
- Meredith Hughes, a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and School of Public Health, developed a death and dying fellowship program designed to prepare young health professionals to discuss end-of-life care.

JHF INTERNS, RAVEN FEATURED IN THE PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

[“Jewish Healthcare Foundation and UPMC examine ways to help frail seniors”](#)

“Some of us are part of a ‘death free generation’ — we can go into adulthood without having to confront death in a personal way,” Hughes says. “The fellowship, along with JHF’s [Closure](#) initiative, can help young professionals realize end-of-life treatment is more than just checking a box. You need to have an honest and open conversation with your family and healthcare provider.”

- Deepan Kamaraj, MD, a University of Pittsburgh student pursuing a PhD in Rehabilitation Science and Technology, conducted site visits and interviewed staff at facilities participating in the [RAVEN](#) initiative to reduce avoidable hospitalizations among long-stay nursing home residents.
- Kara Rogan, a graduate student in Health Information Systems at the University of Pittsburgh, created a user’s guide for Tomorrow’s [HealthCare™](#), PRHI’s online knowledge network.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

The interns all attended a two-week [Perfecting Patient CareSM](#) University and had the opportunity to attend kick-off events for PRHI's new [Center for Health Information Activation](#) (CHIA), which aims to help patients and providers form meaningful, goal-directed partnerships.

"I'm interested in health literacy, and I see connections to CHIA in terms of helping people take control of their health care and make educated decisions," says McMarlin, who worked as a navigator during the first health insurance open enrollment period. "I appreciate the broad spectrum of experiences that I received this summer, and I can take them with me no matter what health field I enter."

Feinstein Moderates Healthcare Workforce Panel at Governor's Jobs 1st Summit



On August 26, Karen Feinstein moderated a panel focusing on Pennsylvania's current and future healthcare workforce needs during the Governor's Jobs 1st Summit. The Summit, held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, gathered non-profit, corporate, and academic thought leaders from across the state to discuss employment trends and ways to align workers' skills with in-demand jobs.

"Healthcare jobs are increasingly shifting from hospitals into neighborhood settings," Dr. Feinstein says. "New roles, including that of community health workers, are putting greater emphasis on prevention, population health, and care coordination. To create healthier communities and strengthen our economy, we must ensure that Pennsylvanians have the education, training, and technology to thrive in this brave new world."

Dr. Feinstein's panel also included Cynthia Bagwell, vice president for talent acquisition at Geisinger Health System; Jacqueline Bauer, Allegheny Health Network chief administrative officer; and Steven Shapiro, MD, executive vice president and chief medical services officer at UPMC.

RAVEN Haven Celebrates Frontline Workers in Long-Term Care Project

On August 8, the first annual RAVEN Haven took place in the conference center at Cumberland Woods Village, in Allison Park, PA. The event was designed to celebrate the clinical staff of Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners and Enhanced Care Registered Nurses at the 19 long-term care facilities participating in [RAVEN](#), which aims to improve the quality of care and reduce avoidable hospitalizations among long-stay nursing home residents.



JHF serves as the lead educational partner in the RAVEN project, which also includes clinical, evaluation, pharmacy, and telemedicine components.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

During the RAVEN Haven, staff discussed successes, barriers, and ideas for their facilities in each of the five project components. The day concluded with a brief talk by UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute's Director of Geriatric Services and RAVEN initiative project director Katy Lanz DNP, ANP, GNP, celebrating the hard work of everyone involved in the grant. Her final words: "I work with superheroes."

IOM Report Calls for Overhaul in Graduate Medical Education Funding



JHF and eleven other private funders collaborated with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on the newly-released Institute of Medicine (IOM) report entitled "Graduate Medical Education that Meets the Nation's Health Needs." The 21-member IOM committee concluded that there is an imperative to assess and optimize the public's investment in GME. They observed a striking absence of transparency and accountability in the GME financing system for producing the types of physicians that the nation needs.

The committee recommended significant changes to GME governance and financing to better align the GME system with the evolving healthcare delivery system in which healthcare is increasingly moving to lower cost, more efficient ambulatory settings; to better align physician supply with the nation's healthcare needs; and to more effectively shape the physician workforce of the future. GME should cultivate a physician workforce capable of leading an evolving healthcare delivery system that improves individual and population health while containing costs, the committee said.

CQEL Summer Meeting Focuses on Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment

On August 20, the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL) held its summer meeting. Chaired by Nancy Zions, CQEL is comprised of hospitals, hospices, attorneys, researchers, physicians, nurses, government agencies, and others who are involved in palliative care, advance care planning, and end-of-life care and policy.

The meeting focused on the current state and future planning for POLST — Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment. JHF serves as the statewide entity responsible for developing and providing training on POLST, an effort which is led by coordinator Marian Kemp and Tamara Sacks, MD, a Foundation consultant.

So far in 2014, more than 70 individuals have been trained in POLST and now possess the education necessary to serve as trainers themselves. Demand for POLST education has been greater than anticipated: JHF will have offered a total of seven training sessions by year's end, more than doubling the annual goal of three.

During the CQEL meeting, members discussed establishing a statewide website for POLST and enjoyed the premiere of a new [Closure video](#), completed following last year's Fine Awards for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care focusing on breakthroughs in end-of-life care.

National Long-Term Care Expert Joanne Lynn Visits JHF



Joanne Lynne, MD (center, in blue), explores new models of long-term care with (L-R, clockwise): Barbara Ivanko, president and CEO of Family Hospice; Moe Coleman, director emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics; Paul Winkler, president and CEO of Presbyterian SeniorCare; Darlene Burlazzi, deputy administrator of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging (AAA); JHF Program Manager Robert Ferguson; Mike Blackwood, a PRHI Board member and former President and CEO of Gateway Health Plan; JHF Board member Larry Stern; and Jane Montgomery, vice president of Clinical Services and Quality of the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania.

On August 12, Joanne Lynn, MD, MA, MS, director of the Altarum Institute's Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness in Washington, DC, visited Pittsburgh to share her recent work and discuss strategies to improve long-term care service and support systems. Dr. Lynn was invited by JHF Board member Larry Stern.

A renowned expert in advanced care planning and long-term care, Dr. Lynn presented her MediCaring model for frail seniors to a group of key regional partners convened by Nancy Zionts. Many of those in attendance worked on a Medical Assistance Managed Long-Term Care Services and Support (LTCSS) pilot project

for Allegheny County, which was developed in 2013 following a stakeholder meeting held by JHF and the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics (IOP). The group identified many common principles between the MediCaring and LTCSS models, and discussed potential next steps towards advancing a new model of senior care that reduces insititutionalizations and hospitalizations and manages costs.

Those in attendance included Mike Blackwood, a PRHI Board member and former President and CEO of Gateway Health Plan; Darlene Burlazzi, deputy administrator of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging (AAA); Moe Coleman, director emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh's IOP; JHF Program Manager Robert Ferguson; Barbara Ivanko, president and CEO of Family Hospice; Jane Montgomery, vice president of Clinical Services and Quality of the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania; AAA Administrator Mildred Morrison; Larry Stern; Anne Torregrossa, executive director of the PennsylvaniaHealth Funders Collaborative; and Paul Winkler, president and CEO of Presbyterian SeniorCare.

2014 Jonas Salk Fellowship to Focus on Systems Thinking, Population Health

JHF and Health Careers Futures are pleased to announce the recruitment of graduate students for the 2014 Jonas Salk Fellowship, which brings together multidisciplinary graduate students to discuss paramount issues confronting health, health care, and society.

Spurred by the Institute of Medicine's finding that Americans have a shorter life expectancy than peers in high-income countries and that an estimated 1,000 people die each day from preventable medical injuries, this year's Jonas Salk Fellowship will focus on using systems-thinking to analyze major population health problems and develop solutions.

Each multi-disciplinary team of fellows will focus on a population health problem, such as low rates of HPV vaccination, HIV viral load in the community and reaching those who are "lost-to-care," campus rape and sexual assault, medication errors, and preventable institutionalization of frail seniors. Teams will analyze the problem at

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

different system levels, including the personal, interpersonal, community, institutional, and policy system levels. Then, the fellows will learn about four problem-solving lenses and explore their selected problem through each lens:

- **The “war room” crisis management response lens** to generate a sense of urgency and craft a swift response using systems-thinking principles that account for all the critical players
- **The disruptive innovations lens** to reshape care delivery with technology
- **The predictive modeling lens** to understand the interplay of forces within complex systems that produce errors and poor health outcomes
- **The advocacy and social activism lens** to bring about policy change and remove barriers to improved health

At the final session, the fellows will propose solutions to their problem using each of the four problem-solving lenses and discuss which lens they think would be the most effective for their selected problem.

The Fellowship will run from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on six Mondays between September 22 and November 24. To apply by the deadline of September 10, please [complete the online application](#), which includes a personal statement, resume, and letter of reference.

For more information, please contact Nancy Zions, chief operating and program officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, at zions@jhf.org.

Quality Improvement Network Update

As announced in last month’s WINDOW, PRHI is the quality improvement partner to Quality Insights, which was recently awarded the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contract to be the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) supporting healthcare quality improvement initiatives in five states, including Delaware, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Through the QIN contract between CMS and Quality Insights, which was approved this summer for work which began August 1, PRHI will bring its Lean methodology, [Perfect Patient CareSM](#), and its online knowledge network portal, [Tomorrow’s HealthCareTM](#), to providers across the participating states.

PRHI has been working closely with the staff of Quality Insights to assure that the portal is expanded to meet the needs of the many diverse providers and communities who will engage in multiple data-driven quality initiatives in seven target areas ranging from reducing hospital and nursing home-acquired infections to managing diabetes. On August 28, Quality Insights hosted a five-state webinar designed to recruit providers and provide an introduction to the Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network.

PRHI Welcomes New Staff

Erika Sieg, RN, BSN, CPC, comes to PRHI as a practice transformation specialist working primarily with the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) and COMPASS (Care of Mental, Physical and Substance Use Syndromes) teams. Most recently, Erika supported staff at Primary Health Network’s 40 sites in western Pennsylvania. She has worked as an ICU nurse, a community-based health coach, preceptor and trainer for clinical staff, care manager,

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

and a PCMH facilitator for both National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and Joint Commission recognition. She also has certification as a billing and medical coder. Erika received her BSN and certificate in Nursing Informatics at Penn State.

Joyce Smith, RPh, joins PRHI as a Senior Applications Specialist, working on [Tomorrow's HealthCare™](#). Joyce is an experienced information technology professional with pharmacist experience. In her 25-plus years at West Penn Allegheny Health System/Forbes Health System, Joyce has managed teams, overseen projects, and acted as a liaison between various departments seeking IT solutions to clinical and operational problems. She has been involved with Meaningful Use initiatives, portal development, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance, and policy and procedure development and review. Her skills in designing, building, testing, and implementing electronic solutions will be valuable as we seek meet our obligations under the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) contract and develop the THC knowledge network.

Congratulations to HCF Board Member Josh Blatter

We at the Foundation would like to congratulate Health Careers Futures board member Josh Blatter, MD, who recently completed his training at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and has accepted a faculty position as a pediatric pulmonologist at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Dr. Blatter will also serve as the associate director of Washington University's Pediatric Lung Transplantation Center. His wife, Alisa, will continue her studies at the school while his son, Max, looks forward to new adventures in St. Louis.