

August 2016

THE WINDOW

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



Union of Fine Awards, Patient Safety Fellowship Spreads Excellence across Disciplines, Generations

An accomplished businessman and philanthropist, Milton Fine observed that several defining characteristics of success in the corporate world—collaborating, thinking disruptively, spreading best-in-class concepts—are also critical, yet often underappreciated, in the healthcare sector. Milton and his wife, Sheila, sought to change that in 2008 when their Fine Foundation partnered with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) to create the [Fine Awards for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care](#), which recognize local healthcare teams for demonstrating innovative performance around safety and quality improvement within their organizations.

For the first time in 2016, the Fine Award winners mentored the multidisciplinary health students and young professionals who participated in another JHF initiative that catalyzes teamwork, innovation, and quality improvement in health care: The Patient Safety Fellowship. During an event at the QI²T Center on August 29, Fine Award winners and Patient Safety Fellows explained how the union of the two initiatives promoted healthcare excellence from generation to generation, a culture of safety, and career development.

“The Fine Award winners, who have already attained a very high level of performance, invited our 31 Patient Safety Fellows into their organizations to identify further opportunities for improvement,” said JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD. “The lesson? Those who do the best are also the ones most excited about getting even better.”

During the event, two representatives from Fine Award-winning teams presented their projects to an

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audience of around 120 people, including JHF and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) Board members and other leaders in medicine, public health, and philanthropy. The other three Fine Award- winning teams presented in tandem with a Patient Safety Fellow, who explained how they applied Lean-based Perfecting Patient CareSM concepts learned during the summer at JHF to launch quality improvement projects of their own.

The Open Door, Inc. Executive Director Christina Farmartino, MPH, explained how her organization helps HIV-positive individuals find the housing and financial stability needed to effectively manage their health and lower community viral loads. Ann McGaffey, MD, medical director of the UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center, shared strategies to boost uptake of the cancer-preventing HPV vaccine—ranging from providing standing vaccination orders to hosting poster contests to letting newly-vaccinated kids and young adults hit a gong to raise awareness among other patients, parents, and staff.

Patient Safety Fellows Abigail Talbert (an MPH student at the University of Pittsburgh) and Tyler Traister (a DNP student at Carlow University) shared observations of Allegheny Valley Hospital's isolation precaution protocol and interactions with AVH leadership, including co-presenter Margaret Meals, MD, chief medical officer and vice president of Medical Affairs. Talbert and Traister noted that they'll use concepts learned during the fellowship—including process-mapping and



(L-R): Milton Fine, president and chair of The Fine Foundation; Sheila Fine, co-founder of The Fine Foundation and founder of LEAD Pittsburgh; and JHF Board Chair Nancy Rackoff, JD. "Milt would never have had such extraordinary success in the hospitality business without being a bear about quality, perfect customer service, safety, efficiency, and going that one step beyond adequate," Rackoff said while kicking off the program. "For JHF, Milt and Sheila are a perfect pair for collaboration."



Taru Gupta, an MPH student at the University of Pittsburgh (left), explains a contact precaution protocol that she and other Patient Safety Fellows developed in tandem with Excelsa Health leadership, including Kathleen Rosatti, RN, BSN, the organization's director of medical outcomes, patient safety and infection control.



Tyler Dunn, pursuing an MSc in Pharmacy Administration at Duquesne University, shows a process map of interdisciplinary rounds at UPMC Shadyside's Surgical ICU, along with unit director Staci Mamula, RN, MSN, CCRN.

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A-3 problem-solving, for years to come.

Patient Safety Fellow Taru Gupta, an MPH student at the University of Pittsburgh, explained how she and a team of other burgeoning health professionals worked with Excelsa Health to prevent infections by enhancing contact precautions for entering patients' rooms.

"The teamwork and quality improvement principles that we learned at JHF can only be applied when an organization has a committed culture, which Excelsa does," Gupta said. "We're thankful for the opportunity to observe, ask questions, and contribute to Excelsa's continuous improvement journey."

Excelsa Health, which is moving forward with the Fellows' contact precaution recommendations, got plenty out of the experience as well, said co-presenter Kathleen Rosatti, RN, BSN, the organization's director of medical outcomes, patient safety and infection control.

"Participating in the Fine Awards and the Patient Safety Fellowship has been such a rewarding experience," Rosatti said. "The fellows got these sparks in their eyes—you could see that the dots connected for them, and they could see how they would apply these lessons in their future careers. Those of us who have been in health care for 20-plus years didn't have these learning opportunities."

Patient Safety Fellow Tyler Dunn, pursuing an MSc in Pharmacy Administration at Duquesne University, explained how his team partnered with UPMC Shadyside Surgical ICU Director Staci Mamula, RN, MSN, CCRN, to standardize multidisciplinary rounds.

"This experience re-energized me about why we do quality improvement," Mamula said. "The young people in this room, representing so many disciplines, are the future of health care. We know it's in good hands."

Following the presentations, Milton Fine explained that the interdisciplinary, intergenerational union of the Fine Awards and the Patient Safety Fellowship is the sort of effort needed to bring systemic change to health care. He also encouraged fellows to learn, but not be constrained by, the information in their text books—far more solutions to vexing problems come from giving your imagination free reign.



Fine Award winners from Allegheny Valley Hospital.



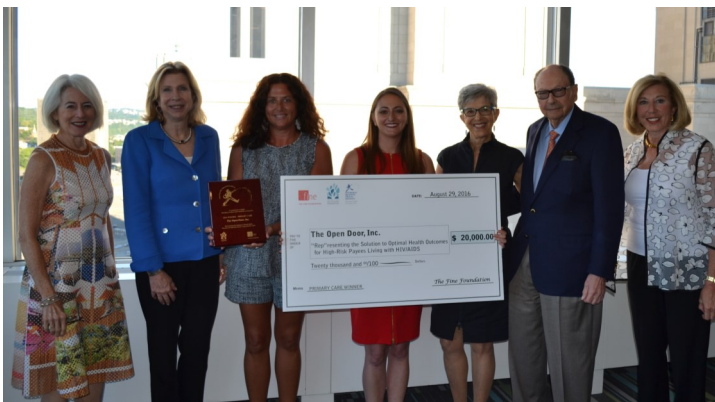
Fine Award winners from Excelsa Health.

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Fine Award winners from UPMC Shadyside.



Fine Award winners from The Open Door, Inc.



Fine Award winners from UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center.



A sampling of the approximately 120 attendees of the combined event celebrating the partnership between the Fine Awards and the Patient Safety Fellowship.



PRHI Practice Transformation Specialist Carol Frazer, LPC, and Jeremy Guttman, a content developer and analyst for Treatspace, a healthcare referral management software company. Guttman, who has completed three of JHF's fellowships, served on the selection committee for the 2016 Fine Awards.

Dancing, Walking with Docs—JHF Hosts Community Planning Session to Re-envision Senior Exercise and Social Engagement

Daniel Rosen, PhD, recalls hearing a deafening roar from the next room one day while working for AgeWell Pittsburgh, an organization committed to helping seniors live independently in their own homes. He sprang from his chair to investigate. Did someone fall? Was someone hurt?

“It was a group of seniors celebrating a strike in virtual bowling,” said Rosen, a JHF Board member and an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work. “They’re proof of the power of exercise and engagement for seniors.”

Dr. Rosen shared that tale during a day-long, community-wide event that JHF facilitated on August 17 at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens that was designed to make that sort of fulfilling experience the norm for our region’s older adults. More than 100 people—representing health providers, foundations, environmental and recreational groups, aging organizations, insurers, community service providers, and activist groups—participated in a pair of planning sessions to create a culture of health and exercise for seniors.

The sessions, moderated by Coro Pittsburgh President and CEO Greg Crowley, PhD, included panel discussions and presentations that featured local experts in senior living, public health, education, and recreation. In smaller breakout groups, participants developed a 2026 vision for making the golden years more active and socially connected as well as 90-day action steps to jump-start the process. They practiced what they preached, too, working up a sweat during stretch breaks and dining on greens, lean protein, and whole grains.



(L-R): ACHD Director Karen Hacker, MD, MPH; Mildred Morrison, MPM, administrator of the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging; and Sara Murphy, a senior constituent service manager for the greater Pennsylvania chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, take part in a panel discussion on current senior services and strategies to promote a culture of health and exercise for older adults.



Personal trainer Barry Kimes (far right) leads participants in a stretch break during the senior exercise and engagement planning event at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens on August 17.

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“Aging does not have to be defined by disability, illness, and decline,” said Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, while welcoming participants to the morning session. “There’s so much that already exists for seniors in the community. How do we build on this strong base, and link it to policy? How do we cure the ‘disease’ of isolation? We’re not going to get to the ideal community for seniors without thinking big.”

During the morning session, attendees learned more about the physical and cognitive benefits of exercise from Dr. Rosen and Michael Madden, MD, chief medical officer of Gateway Health. Then, they engaged in a Q&A on current services and alignment opportunities with panelists Steve Albert, PhD, MS, professor and chair of Behavioral and Community Sciences at Pitt Public Health; Rod Harris, DrPH, deputy director of Community Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD); Sara Murphy, a senior constituent service manager for the greater Pennsylvania chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association; Joey-Linn Ulrich, MNPM, executive director of Venture Outdoors; and Scott Wolovich, MPT, president and CEO of Lively PGH.

Dr. Albert noted that Pitt possesses one of the nation’s few CDC-funded Prevention Research Centers focused on seniors. The center’s signature MOVEUP trial trains community health workers to help seniors increase



Karen Feinstein (right) discusses the shared responsibility to focus on proactive, preventive senior care that increases quality of life.



JHF/PRHI Chief Medical Officer Keith Kanel, MD (center), leads a breakout group discussion on working with health providers to encourage safe exercise practices among older adults.



Graphic illustrator Leah Silverman translated the community’s senior health and exercise conversations into colorful, detailed sketches.

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physical activity and make healthier diet choices. Dr. Harris spoke about how the ACHD contributes to the county's Live Well Allegheny campaign, which aims to prevent chronic disease through exercise, healthy eating, and smoking cessation. Calling dementia a public health crisis, Murphy explained that the Alzheimer's Association wants to increase early diagnoses of the disease through outreach to providers and caregivers.

With 30% of Venture Outdoors' members over the age of 55, and 10% over age 65, Ulrich explained that the organization offers customized outings in city, county, and state parks that range from flat-ground trail hikes to heart-pumping bike rides on hilly terrain. Wolovich stressed the importance of intergenerational programming that allows seniors to get moving with their children and grandchildren.



(L-R): Daniel Rosen, PhD, a JHF Board member and an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work; Michael Madden, MD, chief medical officer of Gateway Health; and Vonda Wright, MD, medical director of the UPMC Lemieux Sports Center and director of the Performance and Research Initiative for Masters Athletes touted the physical, cognitive, and emotional benefits of exercise for seniors during JHF's community-wide planning sessions.

The evening planning session kicked off with a presentation by Vonda Wright, MD, medical director of the UPMC Lemieux Sports Center and director of the Performance and Research Initiative for Masters Athletes (PRIMA). Dr. Wright said that her worldview of seniors changed as a medical resident when she met "Banana" George Blair—a businessman famous for bare-foot water skiing in a bright yellow wet suit well into his nineties.

Not everyone can be like Banana George, Dr. Wright noted, but seniors can stave off disability and positively influence the health of family and friends by eating well and staying active.

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“As a city, we have amazing bricks—bike paths, trails, open streets,” Dr. Wright said. “But we need to ensure the opportunities are available for all people. Your ZIP code is more important than anything else for your health.”

The evening panel discussion featured ACHD Director Karen Hacker, MD, MPH; Mildred Morrison, MPM, administrator of the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging; the Alzheimer’s Association’s Murphy; Anne Newman, MD, MPH, department chair of Epidemiology, the Katherine M. Detre Endowed Chair of Population Health Sciences, director of the Center for Aging and Population Health, and a professor at Pitt Public Health; and Ulrich of Venture outdoors.

Dr. Hacker stressed the need to create environments where the healthy option is the default option, and explained that the ACHD is engaging schools, businesses, and government representatives across the county’s 130 municipalities to make that happen. Morrison suggested that we need to consider the entire bell-curve of the senior community—from the Banana George Blairs to homebound older adults—and increase the availability of evidence-based programming. Dr. Newman noted that Pitt is working with senior centers throughout Pennsylvania on falls prevention programs, and has researched the positive impact of including certified diabetes educators as part of seniors’ primary care teams.

Both planning sessions included breakout conversations where participants brainstormed ideas for leveraging technology to increase seniors’ access to community resources (facilitated by JHF Consultant Jim Osborn), working with providers to encourage safe exercise practices (UPMC Internal Medicine Specialist Terry Starz, MD), aligning senior programming (Phipps Adult Education Coordinator Gabe Tilove), and clearing the hurdles that currently make senior activity more difficult (Caren Glotfelty, executive director of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation).

Heeding Dr. Feinstein’s advice, participants broke free of traditional ideas about seniors’ abilities, interests, and potential partners. Some of the ideas discussed included: capitalizing on new technology to

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Leah Silverman and Coro Pittsburgh President and CEO Greg Crowley, PhD, who moderated planning sessions on increasing exercise and engagement opportunities for seniors. Silverman, Crowley, and breakout group facilitators received gold medals for their Olympic-level contributions.

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recommend exercise and recreation programs based on seniors' lifestyle preferences (JHF's Virtual Senior Center initiative is bringing such opportunities to homebound older adults); doctors writing prescriptions for exercise and vegetables, and leading group outings between primary care visits; building senior housing on college campuses; and increasing health education opportunities by engaging non-traditional partners—from casinos to barbershops to dance clubs.

The region's vision for senior living, brought to life by graphic illustrator Leah Silverman, will continue to take shape through a newly-created community on [Tomorrow's HealthCare™](#), JHF's signature online platform for learning, communication, and collective action among health professionals. In the months to come, the Foundation will hold two more community planning exercises focused on creating senior-friendly primary care practices and ensuring a broad array of senior living options, respectively.

"There's a shared national responsibility to spend wisely on senior care that is proactive and increases quality of life," Dr. Feinstein said as the evening planning session concluded. "Until we start treating older adults as a valuable resource, we're selling seniors—and the larger community—short."

JHF Provides \$100,000 Grant to Support *Stop the Bleed*: A Community Effort to Prevent Mass Casualties

The JHF Board of Trustees approved a \$100,000 grant to implement a regional *Stop the Bleed* initiative, a community outreach, training, and action program that empowers the general public with the first responder skills and equipment necessary to stop or slow life-threatening bleeding.



JHF will support a regional planning effort and provide resources (including bleeding control kits and training) to the local Jewish community and the Foundation's HIV/AIDS service partners.

Mass casualty events—including shootings, multi-vehicle accidents, and acts of terrorism—have become increasingly common. While emergency interventions may save victims of mass casualty situations, some bleed to death at the scene before medical help arrives. Equipping bystanders with basic first responder skills and tools can quicken intervention times and potentially save lives.

"No one wants to think about mass casualty incidents, but many cities across the U.S.—including Aurora, Sandy Hook, Boston, Orlando, and Dallas—have been touched by such tragedies," says Karen Feinstein. "It is critically important that our region is as prepared as possible for an emergency situation. That starts with all of us knowing how to stop life-threatening bleeding, similar to how many in the general public

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can provide CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] to someone in distress.”

Emergency medical technicians, nurses, and other medical providers will disseminate information on *Stop the Bleed* and conduct train-the-trainer sessions on how to use the bleeding control kits. The kits will primarily be placed in the same, highly-populated locations as automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The kits will include standard tourniquets, hemostatic dressings (which have chemicals that quicken blood clot times), and a just-in-time training card to help civilians provide effective aid.

This local initiative builds on the national *Stop the Bleed* campaign, which was launched by the Obama Administration in the fall of 2015.

“Under difficult circumstances, it may take 15 to 20 minutes for EMS to arrive on the scene of a mass casualty incident,” says *Stop the Bleed* partner Andrew Peitzman, MD, distinguished professor of Surgery, Mark M. Ravitch professor and vice-chair, UPMC vice president for Trauma and Surgical Services, who also leads a regional 11 trauma center consortium called the Charles Regional Trauma Council. “People can bleed to death in as little as three to five minutes. With world-class health care and dedicated community partners, we’re uniquely situated in Western Pennsylvania to implement *Stop the Bleed* on an unprecedented scale. Our goal is to train everyone in our third of the state.”



Regional *Stop the Bleed* leaders include (left) Dan Swayze, DrPH, MBA, MEMS, vice president and COO of the CEM of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. and (center) Paul Paris, MD, FACEP, LLD (Hon), senior medical director of UPMC Prehospital Care, chief medical officer of the UPMC Center for Emergency Medicine, and a JHF Board member.

JHF will convene groups to develop a regional *Stop the Bleed* plan, including the Emergency Medical Services Institute, the Center for Emergency Medicine (CEM) of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., the Allegheny County Health Department, police and fire departments, schools, houses of worship, hospitals, government representatives, large corporations and retailers, and malls. Convening and planning efforts for *Stop the Bleed* will begin in 2016, with dissemination of the kits scheduled for late 2016 or early 2017. To increase the availability of bleeding control kits and training across the region, the *Stop the Bleed* consortium will explore potential federal funding sources and engage additional partners that could underwrite costs, including businesses, philanthropic groups, sports facilities, and cultural institutions.

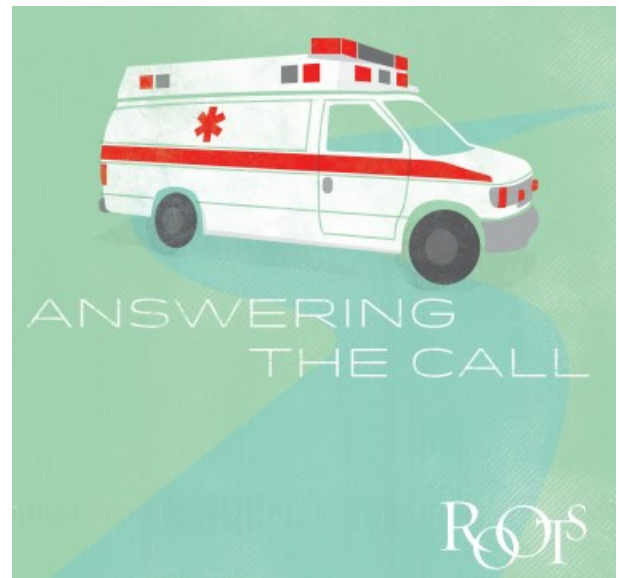
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“We have two choices: prepare for something that we hope never happens here, or console ourselves after the tragedy by resolving to do better next time,” says Dan Swayze, DrPH, MBA, MEMS, vice president and COO of the CEM of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., a multi-hospital consortium dedicated to the advancement of emergency medicine. “We are grateful to JHF for its partnership and leadership in addressing such an urgent public health issue.”

JHF’s support of *Stop the Bleed* furthers the Foundation’s 15-year commitment to improving the region’s emergency preparedness and pre-hospital care. Previous JHF initiatives have included providing grants to Jewish agencies and synagogues to enhance their post-9/11 safety systems (2001) and acquire AEDs (2004); funding a study on the types and frequency of errors in EMS in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania (2004); funding an [EMS Champions](#) program during which 18 local EMS providers learned and applied healthcare quality improvement methods (2008); leading an EMS mission to Israel for local professionals to learn disaster preparedness concepts and bring them back to Allegheny County (2010); and hosting EMS professionals in the Foundation’s multidisciplinary fellowship programs (2013-15).

“This is a natural offshoot of JHF’s commitment to communities being able to deliver quality emergency care, which is always unscheduled,” says Paul Paris, MD, FACEP, LLD (Hon), senior medical director of UPMC Prehospital Care, chief medical officer of the UPMC Center for Emergency Medicine, and a JHF Board member. “*Stop the Bleed* offers our community life-saving skills and builds a cultural responsibility to help our fellow citizens in a time of need.”



JHF’s support of *Stop the Bleed* furthers the Foundation’s 15-year commitment to improving the region’s emergency preparedness and pre-hospital care, including funding an EMS Champions program during which 18 local EMS providers learned and applied healthcare quality improvement methods.

JHF’s 2016 Summer Interns Leave Years-Long Impact

Over the summer, JHF welcomed 12 All-Star students—both graduates and undergraduates, representing disciplines ranging from medicine to health policy and administration to social work—to contribute to the Foundation’s initiatives while preparing them for healthcare leadership roles.

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During presentations to the JHF and Health Careers Futures Boards in August, the 2016 interns showcased their accomplishments and explained how they'll apply their lessons learned and skills gained this summer in the years to come.

During the 10-week internship, students learned the Foundation's Lean-based Perfecting Patient CareSM (PPC) methodology for enhancing healthcare quality and efficiency, and then used their knowledge to advance JHF projects that align with their career goals. Often working in teams and guided by JHF staff who served as mentors, the interns hit the ground running.

The "Lean Dream Team" featured University of Pittsburgh students Michael Coutinho, an undergraduate senior pursuing a BS in economics; Andy Gaul, working towards an MSc in Healthcare Policy and Management; and Michael Osnard, a dual MD/MPH student, as well as Elizabeth Faeth, an undergraduate senior who is pursuing a BS in International Relations and Politics at Carnegie Mellon University. Their work included conducting observations at the Allegheny County Health Department's tuberculosis clinic, mapping out work processes, and looking for opportunities to streamline care.



JHF's cohort of 2016 summer interns featured students with backgrounds in medicine, health policy and administration, and social work, among other disciplines.

The "Aging Team" included Nicole Greer, a dual MPH/MPA student at Pitt; Sha Li, pursuing an MSc in Healthcare Policy and Management at CMU; and Alicia Luke and Ryan Tappe, both MSW students at Pitt. They designed more than a dozen infographics that explain the symptoms and treatment options for health conditions that are linked to preventable hospital readmissions from skilled nursing facilities, including asthma, congestive heart failure, COPD, pneumonia, and urinary tract infection. The

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infographics are already being used by RNs and LPNs at skilled nursing facilities that are participating in the RAVEN (Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations using Evidence-based interventions for Nursing Facility Residents) initiative.

Ashley Chung, an MPH student at Pitt, and Megan Judy, a recent graduate of Slippery Rock University who earned a BS in Public Health, furthered [AIDS Free Pittsburgh's](#) (AFP) 2020 goal of eliminating new AIDS diagnoses in Allegheny County and reducing new HIV infections by 75%. Chung developed a social media strategy for AFP and designed a survey that captured local knowledge of and opinions toward Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a preventive treatment that drastically reduces the chances of non-HIV-positive individuals becoming infected by the virus. Of the more than 700 people surveyed, 73% did not know about PrEP. Judy, who also helped to coordinate the Patient Safety Fellowship, conducted communications research for AFP and engaged community partners, including at Pittsburgh Pridefest.

The Foundation's [HPV Vaccination Initiative](#) received a shot in the arm from Marissa Baron, an MPH student at Pitt, and Kate Dickerson, pursuing an MSc in Healthcare Policy and Management at CMU. After interviewing local providers, parents, school and government officials, and community organization staff, Baron and Dickerson developed a toolkit for those stakeholders which includes communication strategies and resources to increase uptake of the cancer-preventing HPV vaccine.

"JHF allowed us to do meaningful work, and see how that work is making an impact," Dickerson said while presenting to JHF's Distribution

Committee. "The things that we learned this summer—identifying root causes, implementing tests of change, collaborating across disciplines—will benefit us throughout our careers."



(L-R): With PRHI Practice Transformation Specialist Carol Frazer, LPC, and PRHI Chief Learning and Medical Informatics Officer Bruce Block, MD, looking on, JHF Summer Interns Nicole Greer and Michael Osnard take part in the "Marshmallow Challenge." During the exercise, interns work in teams and apply Lean concepts to build the tallest (standing) structures.

2016 Jonas Salk Fellowship Offers Chance to Create a Better Health System from Scratch

Imagine if you could create a high-performing healthcare system from scratch, wiping the slate clean of current delivery and payment models to design something updated and high performing—building on

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new technologies, population health concepts, and data availability. Imagine if you could create a system wired for continuous improvement, ongoing innovation, rapid feedback, superb patient care, and efficiency.

JHF and Health Careers Futures offers the chance to realize that dream through the [2016 Jonas Salk Fellowship](#). Working in teams, fellows will create master designs of a health system that is structured to get the best health outcomes at the most reasonable cost. They will then connect with thought leaders and pitch their ideas to a panel of judges. The Foundation will share the most innovative concepts with local and national partners.

Graduate students from a variety of disciplines who are passionate about systems design, healthcare policy and delivery, public health, patient experience, health IT, and workforce development are encouraged to apply.



Participants in the 2016 Jonas Salk Fellowship will learn Lean-based Perfecting Patient CareSM quality improvement principles (including through a Lego building exercise), and then use that knowledge to construct a higher-performing health system.

The application deadline for the 2016 Jonas Salk Fellowship is **Friday, September 9**. To apply, please complete an [online application](#) that includes a personal statement, resume, and letter of reference. For more information, contact JHF Director of Government Grants and Policy Robert Ferguson (Ferguson@jhf.org).

Latest Collaborative Meeting Focuses on Addressing the Needs of an Aging HIV/AIDS Population

At the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic decades ago, those newly diagnosed with the immune system-ravaging condition typically had just a year or two left to live. Thanks to breakthroughs in antiretroviral therapy, the average life expectancy of an HIV-positive individual in the U.S. has increased from 39 years in the mid-1990s to 73 years today, according to a study of patients in the Kaiser Permanente health system.

While modern medicine has transformed HIV/AIDS from a death sentence to a manageable chronic

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disease, older HIV-positive individuals may now confront a system of care that is fragmented and ill-equipped to help them handle complex drug regimens, additional chronic conditions, and changes in mental and physical health. During the latest Regional HIV Strategic Collaborative meeting on August 4, southwestern Pennsylvania stakeholders discussed strategies and partnerships that can better support an aging HIV population.

Established by JHF in 2014, the Collaborative is an alliance of healthcare providers, consumers, health department leaders, and researchers who are committed to strengthening HIV/AIDS services in southwestern PA. Christopher Garnett, MSS, the Foundation's HIV planning and evaluation coordinator, co-facilitates the Collaborative meetings.

During the meeting, Bart Rauluk, president of HIV/AIDS consumer advocacy organization ALPHA Pittsburgh, and Emmanuel Vergis, MD, MS, MPH, associate professor of medicine within the University of Pittsburgh's Division of Infectious Diseases, led a dialogue on current care gaps for older HIV-positive individuals. They noted that skilled nursing, assisted living, and home health staff might not receive training dedicated to understanding HIV/AIDS medications and delivering culturally-competent care. Rauluk and Dr. Vergis also explained that better communication between long-term care providers and primary care physicians would paint a more complete picture of a patient's health history.

Rauluk stressed that it is very important for Collaborative members to ensure that HIV-positive individuals who will be enrolled in Community HealthChoices (a new managed long-term services and supports program that will launch in western PA July of 2017) receive high-quality, timely, and accessible services.

Between in-person meetings, Regional HIV Strategic Collaborative members share ideas, resources, and information on upcoming treatment and community outreach events on [Tomorrow's HealthCare™](#), the



Bart Rauluk, president of HIV/AIDS consumer advocacy organization ALPHA Pittsburgh.



Emmanuel Vergis, MD, MS, MPH, associate professor of medicine within the University of Pittsburgh's Division of Infectious Diseases.

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Foundation's online knowledge network and communication platform.

PRHI Welcomes New Practice Transformation Specialist to Staff

Marian Allen, BSN, MPH, has joined PRHI as a practice transformation specialist. In this role, she will work with PRHI's care transformation team to support practices that are engaged in improvement activities related to patient engagement, workflow efficiency, and implementing and meaningfully using electronic health records, among other activities. Allen will teach and help implement PRHI's Perfecting Patient CareSM quality improvement training to nurses and clinical assistants in senior care and primary care settings, and also assist with planning activities for continuing nurse education.

Prior to joining PRHI, Allen served as a nurse case manager at the Squirrel Hill Health Center and was also a triage nurse at the West Penn Family Practice. Allen earned her BSN from Carlow College (now Carlow University) and her MPH from the University of Pittsburgh.



Marian Allen, BSN, MPH, PRHI's newest practice transformation specialist.

Women of Impact Expanding Membership, Mentorship Role

Three years ago, female healthcare executives from across the country coalesced to form [Women of Impact](#) (WOI), an advocacy group dedicated to fixing "broken windows" in the industry related to payment, policy, delivery, and innovation, and to promoting gender equity.

On August 4-5, Karen Feinstein and fellow Women of Impact traveled to Washington, D.C., for an annual meeting dedicated to welcoming new WOI members, strengthening and expanding the group's mentorship program, and piloting a collective impact project. WOI members discussed potentially using JHF's newly-announced Health Activist Network as a conduit for developing young, reform-minded healthcare leaders in multiple regions of the U.S.

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