

HSR&D/QUERI centers, projects, Career Development Awards, and highlighted publications in Palo Alto include:

COIN (Center of Innovation):

Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i): Fostering High Value Health Care

Director: Steven Asch, MD, MPH

Ci2i's mission is to produce health services research that informs how VHA operational partners pursue healthcare through better access, higher quality, and wiser use of resources.

CREATE (Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation and Excellence):

Promoting Value and Access in VA's Substance Use Disorder Services

Director: Keith Humphreys, PhD

The mission of this CREATE is to increase value and accessibility across the continuum of substance use disorder care, through the validation and refinement of access and process quality metrics; the evaluation and dissemination of low-cost, high-impact service innovations; and the promotion of patient and provider knowledge about evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders. Projects in this CREATE include:

- SUD Treatment and Staffing Handbook Implementation: Impact on Patient Outcome – *Austin Frakt, PhD* (housed in Boston)
- Web-based Intervention to Reduce Alcohol Use in Veterans with Hepatitis C – *Keith Humphreys, PhD*
- Improving Quality of Addiction Treatment Quality Measures – *Alex Harris, PhD*
- Telemonitoring to Improve Substance Use Disorder Treatment after Detoxification – *Christine Timko, PhD*

Women Veterans Healthcare

Director: Elizabeth Yano, PhD (Los Angeles)

A project under this CREATE that is housed in Palo Alto is:

- Lost to Care: Attrition of Women Veterans New to VHA – *Susan Frayne, MD, MPH*

Pain Management and Patient Aligned Care

Director: Joseph Goulet, PhD (West Haven)

A project under this CREATE that is housed in Palo Alto is:

- Effective Screening for Pain – *Karl Lorenz, MD*

Resource Center:

Health Economics Resource Center (HERC)

Director: Todd Wagner, PhD

HERC assists VA researchers in assessing the cost-effectiveness of medical care, evaluating the efficiency of VA programs and providers, and conducting high-quality health economics research.

QUERI (Quality Enhancement Research Initiative):

Improving Pain-Related Outcomes for Veterans (IMPROVE)

Principal Investigator: Amanda Midboe, PhD

The primary goal of this Program is to improve safe and effective pain management through partnered implementation of personalized, proactive, patient-centered interventions that optimize access to care.

Optimizing Appropriate Use of Medications for Veterans (MedSAFE)

Principal Investigators: Paul Heidenreich, MD, MS; Mary Goldstein, MD

The main theme of the MedSAFE QUERI Program is optimization of medication use, with decision support and provider networks as the focus of implementation. The underlying principle is to promote high-value clinical care with all medication-related interventions.

QUERI Partnered Evaluation Center:

Lean Enterprise Transformation Evaluation Initiative

Co-Principal Investigator: Anita Vashi, MD, MPH

Key Partner: Veterans Engineering Resource Centers

This initiative is evaluating Lean Enterprise Transformation implementation and will assess improvement initiatives, measure organization-level transformation, and identify factors that both facilitate and hinder program success.

Currently Funded Projects at Palo Alto

- Pregnancy Outcomes of Veterans (PROVE) – *Ciaran Phibbs, PhD*
- Understanding the Initiation of Maintenance Dialysis among Older Veterans – *Manjula Tamura, MD, MPH*
- Implementing Tobacco Treatment in Substance Use Disorder Residential Programs – *Elizabeth Gifford, PhD*
- Access to Specialty Care for Veterans with Complex Conditions – *Todd Wagner, PhD*
- Development and Validation of a Risk Calculator for Total Joint Replacement – *Alex Sox-Harris, PhD*
- The Opioid Consent: Helping Optimize Information for Cancer and Effective (CHOICE) Pain Management – *Karl Lorenz, MD*
- Value of End-of-Life Cancer Care – *Risha Gidwani, DrPH*
- Improving Treatment Engagement and Outcomes among Justice-involved Veterans – *Daniel Blonigen, PhD*
- An RCT of a Primary Care-Based PTSD Intervention: Clinician-Supported PTSD Coach – *Eric Kuhn, PhD*
- Web-based Self-management Tool Targeting Patients and their Informal Caregivers – *Ranak Trivedi, PhD*
- Evaluating the Adaptability and Implementation Potential of an Innovative Alcohol Intervention for Veterans in Primary Care: Integrating Mobile-based Applications with Peer Support – *Daniel Blonigen, PhD*
- Planning for a New Era in Veterans Health Care: Community Care, Information Exchange and Multi-system Use – *Todd Wagner, PhD*
- Causes and Consequences of Inappropriate MRI of the Lumbar Spine – *Paul Barnett, PhD*
- Personalized Life Expectancy to Encourage High Value Prostate Cancer Care – *John Leppert, MD, MS*

Current Career Development Awardees

- *Jessica Breland, PhD, MS* – Patient-centered Strategies to Engage Veterans in Behavioral Health Services
- *Andrea Finlay, PhD* – Justice-Involved Veterans: Mental Health and Substance Use Care of Young Adults
- *Donna Zulman, MD, MS* – Optimizing eHealth Applications for Multimorbid Patients

Research Career Scientists

- *Keith Humphreys, PhD*
- *Alex Sox-Harris, PhD*
- *Christine Timko, PhD*

Highlighted Publications

- ***VA End-of-Life Initiative Increases Veterans' Use of Hospice***
Miller SC, Intrator O, Scott W, Shreve S, Phibbs C, Kinosian B, Allman R, Edes T. Increasing Veterans' Hospice Use: The Veterans Health Administration's Focus on Improving End-of-Life Care. *Health Affairs*. July 1, 2017;36(7):1274-1282.
- ***Using Yelp, VA Hospitals Rated Higher than Affiliated Non-VA Hospitals***
Heidenreich P, Zapata A, Shieh L, Oliva N, and Sahay A. Patient Ratings of Veterans Affairs and Affiliated Hospitals. *American Journal of Managed Care*. June 2017;23(6):382-384.
- ***Effects of Homeless Veterans' Use of Peer Mentors***
Yoon J, Lo J, Gehlert E, Johnson, E, and O'Toole T. Homeless Veterans' Use of Peer Mentors and Effects on Costs and Utilization in VA Clinics. *Psychiatric Services*. June 1, 2017;68(6):628-31.
- ***Current Diagnosis of PTSD is Risk Factor for Pregnant Women***
Shaw J, Asch S, Katon J, Shaw K, Kimerling R, Frayne S, and Phibbs C. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Antepartum Complications: A Novel Risk Factor for Gestational Diabetes and Preeclampsia. *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*. May 2017;31(3):185-194.
- ***Study Examines Engagement in Hepatitis C Virus Care among Homeless and non-Homeless VA Patients***
Noska A, Belperio P, Loomis T, O'Toole T, and Backus L. Engagement in the Hepatitis C Care Cascade among Homeless Veterans, 2015. *Public Health Reports*. March/April 2017;132(2):136-139.
- ***Intensive Outpatient Care for High-Need Patients Does Not Reduce Acute Care Use or Costs Compared to Standard VA Care***
Zulman D, Chee C, Ezeji-Okoye S, et al. Effect of an Intensive Outpatient Program to Augment Primary Care for High-Need Veterans Affairs Patients. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. February 1, 2017;177(2):166-75.
- ***Quality Improvement Tool Shows Organizational Factors Related to Access and Quality Measures in VA Mental Healthcare***
Schmidt E, Krahn D, McGuire M, Tavakoli S, Wright D, Solares H, Lemke S, and Trafton J. Using Organizational and Clinical Performance Data to Increase the Value of Mental Health Care. *Psychological Services*. February 2017;14(1):13-22.

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