Virtual Care CORE

January 2022 Newsletter

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Recent News from OCC and the VC CORE

NEW Early Career Investigator Spotlight

We are excited to pilot a new section of the VC CORE Newsletter called the Early Career Investigator Spotlight. Each month, we will feature two junior researchers, highlighting their accomplishments, research interests, and collaborations they would be interested in pursuing. As of now, there is no set template for what the Spotlights should look like, however, we advise contributors to submit a bioblurb of about 250-300 words, prioritizing the information most relevant to our audience and that would be most helpful in understanding your aspirations for the near-future.

February 2022 Cyberseminar

The first VC CORE Cyberseminar in 2022 will take place on Wednesday, February 2 at 1 PM. In keeping with our goal of providing junior researchers with more opportunities to showcase their work and selves, we invite our early career investigators to submit their project title and brief abstract for consideration. Our Cyberseminars have been extremely well-attended, averaging approximately 200 live attendees and many more registrations. In prior Cyberseminars, we have put together slates of three presenters – this resulted in lots of great, densely packed content, but less time for Q&A. In February, we will aim for two presentations of longer format, with more time for audience Q&A. We hope you will consider presenting to your peers and look forward to working with you!

Year 2 VC CORE Needs Assessment

Last year, many of you completed the CORE's Baseline Needs Assessment Survey. The feedback we received was extremely useful to our ability to plan relevant programming and proactively reach out to members who had indicated interests in various topics. We now ask **all VC CORE Members** to complete the Year 2 survey to help us assess how we've done in the past year, determine how the attitudes and preferences among members have changed, and plan the most useful programming for members in year 2 of the VC CORE. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and is live here.

Early Career Investigator Spotlight

Lucinda Leung, MD, PhD, MPH

I am a Staff Physician at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System who cares for patients with high medical and mental health needs. I have an academic appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. I am a Core Investigator at VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation, & Policy and an Affiliate at VA Center for Integrated Healthcare (Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention). My expertise is in health services research to optimize care for primary care patients with mental health needs, through team-based care models and virtual care.

Supported by Virtual Care CORE/Office of Connected Care, I co-lead a national evaluation of telehealth delivery of primary care services before and during the pandemic across all VA clinics. I also conduct quality improvement and research activities as part of the VA Primary Care Analytics Team (Office of Primary Care) and have comprehensively examined several national initiatives: Patient Aligned Care Teams (patient-centered medical homes), Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (collaborative care models), and Clinical Resource Hubs (contingency clinician staffing via telehealth). This work includes national analyses of VA electronic databases and fielding an organizational survey of primary care clinic leaders to understand variation in primary care and mental health care delivery, as well as information communication technologies (e.g., telehealth) to facilitate care delivery. Finally, as a VA HSR&D Career Development Awardee, I adapt and pilot test collaborative care models enhanced with computerized cognitive behavioral therapy to treat depression in primary care patients. Outside of the VA, I have studied electronic referral/consultation which allows asynchronous communication between both primary care and mental health specialties, as a virtual tool to improve mental health care access in Los Angeles safety net primary care clinics.

View Dr. Leung's complete [research profile,](#) or get in touch via email at lucinda.leung@va.gov.

Dr. Charlie M. Wray, DO, MS, FHM

I am an internist and health services researcher at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of California, Francisco. I completed medical school at Western University – College of Osteopathic Medicine, Internal Medicine residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center, and a health services research fellowship at The University of Chicago. In 2021, I received a [VA HSRD Career Development Award](#) to study the use and impact of telemedicine on socially vulnerable Veterans. In addition to this focus, I am also interested in how the proportion of virtual care (as a component of all care received) potentially impacts quality of care and health outcomes among Veterans. Additionally, I am the Deputy Digital Media Editor for the *Journal of Hospital Medicine (JHM)* where I established the use of [Visual Abstracts](#) and the Twitter-based journal club; [JHMChat](#), as well as direct the JHM Editorial Fellowship, where I mentor other junior faculty in manuscript reviewing and editorial processes. When not fulfilling these duties, I am often tweeting at [@WrayCharles](#) or trying to keep up with my two young boys.

My colleagues describe me as a collaborative investigator who is always open to new ideas and the opportunity to work and learn with others. Specifically, I am interested in collaborations that explore the use of virtual care among socially vulnerable populations (i.e. homeless, socially isolated, etc.) and how to use and harness other novel technologies (i.e. wearables, peripheral devices) to improve virtual care interactions and care.

View Dr. Wray's complete [research profile](#), or get in touch via email at Charlie.Wray@ucsf.edu.

Funding and Presentation Opportunities and Deadlines

Opportunities	Contact	Deadline
Developing Telehealth Reporting Standards via Modified Delphi Process Researchers at the Durham VA COIN are working to develop a set of Telehealth Reporting Standards. The recent Evidence Synthesis Program report on the use of virtual care for the longitudinal management of chronic conditions highlighted the need to improve reporting in telehealth research such that interventions can be appropriately compared and successful ones be implemented.	conor.walsh@va.gov to get involved.	Date TBD

Recent Virtual Care Publications

- Haun, J., Chavez, M., Hathaway, W., Antinori, N., Melillo, C., Cotner, B. A., ... & Nazi, K. (2018). Virtual Medical Modality Implementation Strategies for Patient-Aligned Care Teams to Promote Veteran-Centered Care: Protocol for a Mixed-Methods Study. *JMIR research protocols, 08/2018.*
- Haun, J. N., Cotner, B. A., Melillo, C., Panaite, V., Messina, W., Patel-Teague, S., & Zilka, B. (2021). Proactive integrated virtual healthcare resource use in primary care. *BMC health services research, 08/2021.*
- Haun, J. N. Veterans Health Administration. (2021, March 17th).
  - Introduction: Using VA Digital Tools for Providers.
  - Pre-appointment: Using VA Digital Tools for Providers - YouTube
  - Medical Encounter: Using VA Digital Tools for Providers - YouTube
  - Post-Encounter: Using VA Digital Tools for Providers - YouTube
- Haun, J. N. Veterans Health Administration. (2019, October 24th). VA Digital Tools for Veteran Health Care Delivery and Self-Care Management - YouTube
- Harzand A, Weidman AC, Rayl KR, Adesanya A, Holmstrand E, Fitzpatrick N, Vathsangham H, Murali S. Retrospective Analysis and Forecasted Economic Impact of a Virtual Cardiac Rehabilitation Program in a Third-Party Payer Environment. *Front Digit Health. 11/2021.*
- Khanna S, Harzand A. Preventive Cardiology in the Digital and COVID-19 Era: A Brave New World within the Veterans Health Administration. *Healthcare, 11/2021.*
- Walsh C et al. Virtual Care for the Longitudinal Management of Chronic Conditions. *VA ESP Project #09-009; 12/2021.*

Upcoming Meetings and Cyberseminars

Title	*Presenter(s)*	Date/Time
Centralized Interactive Phenomics Resource (CIPHER): Overview of the VA Phenomics Library and Plans for Expansion	Cho, Kelly Honerlaw, Jacqueline	1/10/2022 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST
Navigating CDW Data	Robison, Brian	1/13/2022 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST
Providing Complementary and Integrative Health Services via Telehealth: Lessons Learned from Whole Health Providers in VA	Hyde, Justeen Wu, Juliet	1/20/2022 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST
VC CORE Cyberseminar Series	Speakers TBD	2/2/2022 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST

Past Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
[DaVINCI: Cohort Selection in DaVINCI](#)	Wendy Funk, MS	12/9/2021 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST
[Using Multiple Qualitative Methods to Study Changes in Care Delivery, In-Home Vaccination, & Social Isolation of Home-Based Veterans and Caregivers During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)	Leah Haverhals, PhD, MA Tamar Wyte-Lake, DPT, MPH	12/9/2021 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST
VC CORE Network Update and Open Forum (email CORE team for slides)	Interactive open meeting for VC CORE Team and Members	12/6/2021 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM EST
[Navigating VA Data Access: An Overview of the Process for Requesting Permission to Use VA Data](#)	Linda Kok, MA	12/6/2021 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Links to Resources

Telehealth
- [VHA Telehealth Services Website](#)
- [Telehealth Intranet Site](#)
- [VHA Mobile and Peripheral Devices for Facilities](#)

VA Mobile
- [VA Mobile | VA App Store](#)
- [New VA Mobile 'My App List' functionality/categories](#)
- [ANNIE Automated Texting System | SharePoint site](#)
- [VACO Mobile Mental Health & Technology | SharePoint site](#)
- [VA Mobile Health Practice Guide | SharePoint site](#)

MyHealth*e*Vet
- [MyHealth*e*Vet | Portal Homepage](#)
- [MyHealth*e*Vet | VA Intranet Product Homepage](#)
- [My HealtheVet Statistics - My HealtheVet Product (va.gov)](#)
- [My HealtheVet Secure Messaging Reports Guide](#)

Data Reports, Measures, Definitions, and Training
- [VHA Reports and Measures Portal (RAMP)](#)
- [Reporting and Analytics Field Training (RAFT)](#)
- [VSSC – Connected Care, Telehealth, Call Centers](#)
- [Data Definitions for VSSC Data Cubes](#)

Patient Generated Health Data
- [Approved VA Policy on PGHD](#)
- [PGHD video for staff](#)

General Office of Connected Care
- [Connected Care Website](#)
- [Connected Care Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Connected Care Academy](#) (VA Intranet Required)

Contact Information

- For any comments or questions about material in this newsletter or about the Virtual Care Consortium of Research, please email the CORE team at VHAVirtualCareCore@va.gov.
- Please let us know if you have news to share with the community! Email us and we will add it to the next newsletter.
- Finally, [follow us on Twitter](#) for regular, bird-sized bits of information!

The mission of the VA Virtual Care Consortium of Research is to facilitate research that evaluates and improves use of virtual care to enhance the accessibility, capacity and quality of VA health care and Veteran experience.