

Annual Report and Review of Accomplishments

The Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy on Aging and Disability

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy in Aging and Disability

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Our Center remains committed to advancing our mission of conducting innovative research, educating the leaders of tomorrow, and translating discoveries into effective policies and practices to improve the quality of care and quality of life of people with complex health and social needs and disabilities.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am proud to share our 2024-2025 Annual Report. This year has brought radical changes to our federal policy landscape and funding environment, and closer to home, transitions into temporary office space and the need to manage uncertainty. In this context, our accomplishments are especially notable and a testament to the resilience and hard work of our remarkable faculty, staff, and trainees. Here I outline selected highlights of the last year that align with our Center's strategic plan.

People and Partnerships

- We enthusiastically celebrate the well-deserved promotion of <u>Chanee Fabius</u> to Associate Professor! Chanee has been a member of our Center since 2017. She is a thought leader in home and community-based long-term services and supports and was recognized this year as a <u>40 Under 40 Leader in</u> <u>Minority Health</u> by the <u>National Minority Quality Forum</u>.
- We welcome two new members to our Center: <u>Ellesse-Roselee Akré</u>, Assistant Professor, health equity scholar and health services researcher, with expertise in measuring care quality and access; and administrative specialist Ashley Graham, who shares her time with our group and the Bloomberg School's Office of Public Health Practice.



• We strengthened our partnership with the HPM communications team to elevate the visibility and impact of our work and align our communication with HPM and the Bloomberg School.

Education

- Danny Scerpella and Chase Mulholland-Green led the launch of our <u>Lipitz Center Student Fellowship</u>, which supported four talented students this academic year. Lipitz fellows received mentorship from <u>Center faculty</u> and were connected to applied learning experiences with the <u>Longevity Ready Maryland initiative</u> and <u>National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers</u> through partnering with the <u>National Alliance for Caregiving</u>. We look forward to continuing the fellowship's reach in the coming year.
- <u>Kate Miller</u> launched a <u>journal club</u> to provide students with exposure to seminal articles and concepts related to aging and disability. What began as a discussion forum has evolved into a formal course that will be offered in the coming academic year a testament to Kate's vision and commitment to cultivating scholarly discourse.
- We honored the legacy of our longtime colleague and friend, **Dr. Judy Kasper**, and her commitment to supporting emerging leaders in health policy research by conferring the third <u>Judith Dellinger Kasper Dissertation Award</u> to doctoral student **Aleks Wec**.
- A major highlight was receiving notice of the renewal of our cross-school NIA-funded T32 training program, <u>Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations</u>. The sustainment of our program is a testament to the strength of our Hopkins community and will allow us to continue to attract and support high-caliber trainees with interests in aging and disability research and policy.

Research

- This has been a year of bringing long-term projects to a close, while active grant-writing and "planting" exciting new research proposals that align with our Center mission. External proposals in progress focus on advancing innovation in geriatric surgical care and recovery (Reider), home-based and primary care-based approaches to dementia care (Akré/Wolff/Scerpella/Peereboom), and home health payment policy (Miller/Shen). We await news of the renewal application submitted in December to sustain our HEADS) Center for six more years. Stay tuned!
- We congratulate <u>Karen Shen</u> for receiving awards from the <u>Social Security Administration Center for Retirement Research</u> to study financial vulnerability in older adults and from the <u>Hopkins Business of Health Initiative</u> to study nursing home litigation; Ellesse Akré for being supported by the <u>Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research</u> to advance her research in home-based dementia care; and Kate Miller for her <u>new 2-year NIA award</u> to advance understanding of Medicaid home and community-based supports in Medicaid.

Policy

- We have invested in strengthening key partnerships—with <u>The Hilltop Institute</u> and the State of Maryland in areas related to policy and home and community-based care and with our longstanding research partner, <u>Johns Hopkins Community Physicians (JHCP)</u> in the area of primary care-based dementia care innovation.
- Chanee Fabius, Kate Miller, Karen Shen, and Chase Mulholland-Green were instrumental in advancing
 <u>Longevity Ready Maryland</u> recommendations to support the direct care workforce. Meanwhile, our Center
 has continued to shape the <u>National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers</u> through my membership on the
 Advisory Council, and through **Danny Scerpella's** leadership in placing Lipitz Center Student Fellows at the
 National Alliance for Caregiving.
- Chance Fabius, with other faculty from our Center and the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, has received a JHU Nexus award to host a national convening at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center in Washington, DC to improve shared care involving paid and unpaid caregivers.

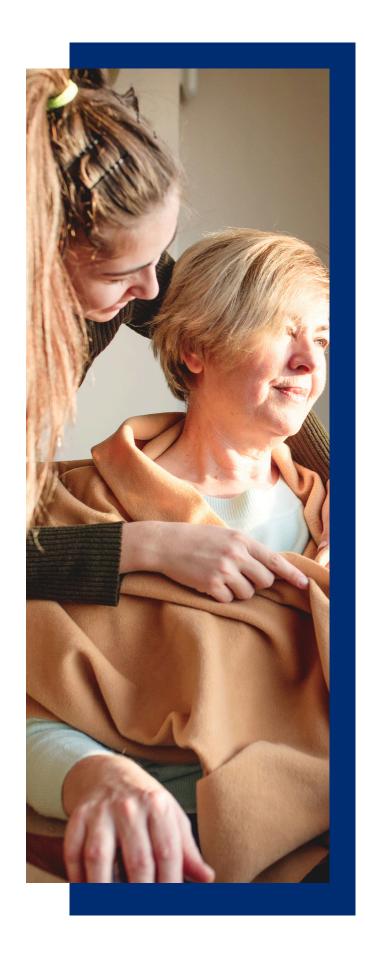
Our accomplishments hinge on the hard work, creativity, skill, and collaborations of trainees, faculty, and phenomenal staff. It is especially bittersweet to say goodbye to those who have been instrumental to our success as they embark on new career paths, including Arts & Sciences graduate Abby Fassinger; Lipitz fellows Rohini Achal, Aditi Bajpai, Abigayle Burnett and Sanika Kulkarni; newly minted graduates of our PhD program, health economist Jeff Marr and occupational therapist and health services researcher Jenni Reiff; and post-doctoral fellows and geriatrician Mfon Umoh and general internist Kacey Chae. It is a testament to the strength of our community and trainees that despite the difficult job market, all have secured meaningful employment opportunities that reflect their talent, resilience, and the quality of training they received at the Center. We wish them well and hope that opportunities bring them back to Baltimore.

With appreciation,

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy in Aging and Disability is an interdisciplinary collaborative engaged in conducting innovative research, educating the leaders of tomorrow, and translating discoveries into effective policies and practices that improve the quality of care and quality of life of persons with complex health needs and disabilities. The Center is situated within the Department of Health Policy and Management at the nation's top-ranked School of Public Health. With strong connections across the University, most notably with the nation's topranked Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology and School of Nursing, the Center is uniquely positioned as a hub of research, policy, and practice initiatives.

The Center possesses a robust research portfolio that encompasses economic evaluation and modeling, policy analysis and synthesis, epidemiological studies, observational analyses, and behavioral interventions. From 2009 through 2022, the Center was the founding home of the National Health and Aging Trends Study and its National Study of Caregiving, an important national resource that serves as the definitive source of information on disability trends and trajectories in late life. The Center also has a long history of policy work related to payment models and financing of services and supporting interdisciplinary interventional research to effect change in care delivery through such exemplar models as Guided Care, Hospital at Home, MIND at Home, and CAPABLE, some of which have been incorporated into mainstream payment models and care. Each of these lines of inquiry are important to the current and future research priorities of the Center.





"The solutions facing people who need post-acute care are becoming more and more complex.

I want to make sure that policies in the future will be based on facts, not emotions."

Roger C. Lipitz

VISION

The Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy in Aging and Disability will serve as a leader in the development of policies, service delivery, and payment models that contribute to excellence in integrated care for persons with complex care needs and prepare leaders and champions of outstanding integrated care systems.

MISSION

The Center strives to discover and disseminate practical, cost-effective approaches to deliver comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate care to persons with complex care needs and their families.

LONG-TERM GOALS

1. Research

 To conduct research to promote the delivery of comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and affordable care to persons with complex care needs and their families.

2. Education

 To prepare the next generation of scholars, practitioners and administrators to lead the continued integration of care for adults with complex care needs.

3. Policy & Practice

 To disseminate new knowledge on integrated care to those in a position to effect change including policy officials, health care leaders, health professionals, and researchers.

HISTORY

The Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy in Aging and Disability and the Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professorship were created in 1998 through a generous gift from Roger and Flo Lipitz and the Lipitz Family Foundation to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The Center was established to serve as a catalyst for evidence-informed health policy to benefit the lives of persons with disabilities and complex health needs. The Professorship honors Roger's parents, who were early leaders in nursing home care. Roger continued in this career path and was instrumental in building the field in Maryland, serving as chair of the board of Meridian Healthcare, the largest provider of long-term care services in Maryland at the time, and president of both the American Health Care Association and the Maryland Nursing Home Association. Mr. Lipitz has a longstanding commitment to helping others through civic activities. He is a trustee emeritus of the Johns Hopkins University and former chair of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Advisory Board.

LEADERSHIP

Since 2018, the Lipitz Center has been directed by Jennifer Wolff, PhD, MHS, the third Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, succeeding Karen Davis, PhD (2013-2018) and Chad Boult, MD, MPH, MBA (2003-2013).

IMPACT

The impact of the Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy in Aging and Disability is driven by the accomplishments of its members and their research, advocacy and academic pursuits to advance Center mission areas. Center research spans observational and policy analysis at the societal level, to interventional studies of programs and/or services at the individual level.

"The newly renamed Roger and Flo Lipitz Center is poised to draw on its longstanding strengths while evolving to meet new needs in the fields of aging and disability. By advancing innovative policies, the Center will help more people to lead healthier, engaged lives and in the process, support families, strengthen communities, and shape a

OUR PEOPLE

CORE MEMBERS: FACULTY AND STAFF

Jennifer Wolff, PhD, MHS
Eugene and Mildred Lipitz

Professor & Center Director

Ellesse-Roselee Akré, PhD, MA Assistant Professor

Jeromie Ballreich, PhD, MHS

Associate Research Professor

Lindsey Culli, MFA

Communications Associate

Chanee Fabius, PhD, MA

Associate Professor

Ashley Graham, MBA

Administrative Specialist

Valecia Hanna, MS

Research Data Analyst

Katherine Miller, PhD

Assistant Professor

Chase Mullholland Green, MPH

Policy Coordinator

Danielle Peereboom, MPH

Program Manager

Lisa Reider, PhD, MHS

Assistant Professor

Kate Sam, BA

Senior Director of

Communications and Marketing

Danny Scerpella, MPH

Research Associate

Karen Shen, PhD

Assistant Professor

Maureen Skehan, MSPH

Senior Research Associate

Nikki Ucheya, BA

Digital Marketing and

Communications Specialist

MJ Mingche Wu, MSPH

Senior Programmer Analyst

Claire Yang, MS

Statistical Programmer

POST-DOCTORAL TRAINEES

Kacey Chae, MD

School of Medicine

Sarah Jabour, MD

School of Medicine

Emerald Jenkins, PhD-DNP,

MSN, RN

School of Nursing

Mfon Umoh, MD, PhD

School of Medicine

Zhang Zhang, PhD

Bloomberg School

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Alexa Bragg, MPH, MBA

HSR&P, 2nd year

Natalie Davoodi, MPH

HSR&P, 2nd year

Andrew Jopson, MPH HSR&P, 5th year

Jeff Marr, BA

Health Economics, 4th year

Jenni Seale Reiff, MS, OTR/L

HSR&P, 5th year

Aleksandra Wec, BA

HSR&P, 4th year

Yutong Zhang

HSR&P, 1st year

MASTER STUDENTS

Rohini Achal (MSPH, 1st year) Aditi Bajpai (MHS) Abigayle Burnett (MSPH, 1st year) Sanika Kulkarni (MHS)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Abigail Fassinger Chloe Kim



AFFILIATES

Martha Abshire, PhD, MS, RN Halima Amjad, MD, PhD, MPH Gerard Anderson, PhD Alicia Arbaje, MD, PhD, MPH

Cynthia Boyd, MD, MPH

Julia Burgdorf, PhD

Thomas Cudjoe, MD, MPH Emmanuel Drabo, PhD

Vadim Dukhanin, MD

Joe Gallo, MD

Kelly Gleason, PhD, RN

Ariel Green, MD, PhD, MPH

Bruce Leff, MD Joe Levy, PhD

Stephanie Nothelle, MD

Katherine Ornstein, PhD, MPH

Dan Polsky, PhD

Mariah Robertson, MD, MPH

David Roth, PhD

Laura Samuel, PhD, MSN, RN

Quincy Samus, PhD Nancy Schoenborn, MD Jennifer Schrack, PhD Mariana Socal, MD

Janiece Taylor, PhD, MSN, RN

Kali Thomas, PhD, MA

School of Nursing

School of Medicine

Bloomberg School

School of Medicine

School of Medicine Bloomberg School

School of Medicine

Bloomberg School

Bloomberg School

Bloomberg School

School of Nursing

School of Medicine

School of Medicine

Bloomberg School School of Medicine

School of Nursing

Bloomberg School, Carey Business School

School of Medicine

School of Medicine

School of Nursing

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School of Medicine Bloomberg School

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School of Nursing

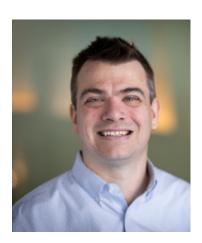
UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

CORE MEMBERS: FACULTY & STAFF



Ellesse-Roselee Akré, PhD, MA

Akré is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management and is an interdisciplinary health services researcher and health equity scholar. Her expertise is in understanding and measuring structural racism, sexism, and heterosexism in health care and in health systems, and their causal relationship to access and utilization disparities. Through her scholarship, Ellesse leverages intersectionality theory to study how social, demographic, and policy contexts shape health and health care disparities at the intersections of race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, and aging. Highlights from this past year include publishing a paper that was the first to characterize the national availability of LGBTQ+ supportive services in primary care and being awarded a pilot grant from the Johns Hopkins Resource Center for Minority Aging Research. Additionally, Akré received AcademyHealth's Health Equity Interest Group Early-Stage Investigator award recognizing her impact in health equity research and mentoring.



Jeromie Ballreich, PhD, MHS

Ballreich is an Associate Research Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management with expertise in economic evaluation, pharmaceutical policy, and care delivery and payment policy directed at meeting the needs of high-needs high-cost patients. He also directs the MHS in Health Economics and Outcomes Research program. Highlights from this year include receiving two grants related to the US pharmaceutical supply chain, ongoing engagement with federal policy makers on pharmaceutical policy questions, and publications on pharmaceutical policy. Currently, he is part of a team rolling out a public facing dashboard on the US pharmaceutical supply chain funded by the Department of Defense and Johns Hopkins, leading the cost-effectiveness of two NIH funded clinical trials, and continuing his work on developing evidence-based policy to improve pharmaceutical affordability and access in the US.



Lindsey Culli, MFA

Culli is a Communications Associate in the Bloomberg School's Department of Health Policy and Management. Culli's role at the Lipitz Center focuses on translating research into accessible, compelling content through newsletters, annual reports, issue briefs, news articles, press releases, and other written materials. She compiles and edits content that highlights the work of the Center's affiliates—including research findings, community partnerships, and policy impact—and ensures that these efforts are clearly communicated to a broad audience including journalists and policymakers. She also administers the editorial strategy to keep the Center's communications timely, informative, and aligned with its mission. Culli holds a Bachelors of Journalism from the University of Missouri and an MFA in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts.



Chanee Fabius, PhD, MA

Fabius is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management. She is a health services researcher whose work focuses on improving equity and quality in long-term services and supports (LTSS). She leads an NIA-funded K01 Career Development Award to strengthen information sharing between direct care workers and family caregivers of older persons with dementia receiving Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services in Maryland. Fabius co-leads the Contextual Factors in Aging and LTSS Research Working Group, which is supported by the Lipitz Center, HEADS Center, and the Center for Equity in Aging in the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Highlights from this year include a promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor, a publication in The Gerontologist describing shared care between family care partners and paid caregivers, and co-leading the Care Workforce working group for the Maryland Department of Aging's Longevity Ready Maryland strategy. This year, Fabius was also named a 40 Under 40 Leader in Health for the National Minority Quality Forum, and received a 2025 Nexus Award from Johns Hopkins University to host a convening on strategies to improve shared care between family caregivers and the paid direct care workforce.



Ashley Graham, MBA

Graham is an administrative specialist at the Center. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Salisbury University and later completed her MBA at Walden University. For the past three years, she has been a valued member at Johns Hopkins, where she channels her passion for enhancing productivity and streamlining office operations. Graham joined the Center in 2024 and is excited about the opportunity to become further integrated and contribute to its continued success and growth. Outside of work, Ashley embraces life to the fullest! She enjoys traveling, having fun at waterparks, getting creative with crafts, and playing board games. She is also a proud sports mom who is always cheering from the sidelines.



Valecia Hanna, MS

Hanna is a research data analyst who joined the Center in 2021. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Sociology from Morgan State University. Hanna serves as an integral team member on multiple NIH-funded studies to advance support for older adults with dementia and their family caregivers, caregiving in the workplace, and policies on paid caregiving. She serves as project coordinator for Fabius's K01 Career Development Award and two Nexus-funded awards (PI's: Miller, Fabius). In addition to data analysis and project management, Hanna's role in the Center involves onboarding, training and integrating student researchers. She serves on the student engagement team, where she contributed to launch of the journal club and the Lipitz Center Student Fellowship. She hopes to continue building bridges between students and faculty and developing her skills in data analysis and project management within the Center's portfolio of research and practice activities.



Katherine Miller, PhD

Miller is an Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management and health services researcher. Her research focuses on understanding how health and labor policies impact outcomes of the long-term care workforce (e.g., wages of home health aides, well-being of family caregivers); the mechanisms impacting delivery of care (e.g., turnover); and patient outcomes. Highlights of the last year include publishing papers examining the health services infrastructure available to support aging in place in the United States and presenting work on family caregiver supports and the direct care workforce. In collaboration with the student engagement team, Miller created the highly successful Topics in Aging and Disability Journal Club, which she will be offering as a new Topics in Aging survey course in the fall. Miller is leading a two-year Nexus Research project examining state level supports for home- and community-based services for people with disabilities.



Chase Mulliolland Green, MPH

Mulholland Green joined Dr. Wolff's team in the fall of 2022 to support the SHARING Choices study while completing her MPH at the Bloomberg School. After graduating in May 2023, she transitioned to the SHARE study to support qualitative coding and analysis. Currently, Mulholland Green serves as Policy Coordinator for both the Lipitz Center and HEADS Center, where she provides administrative leadership across the centers' initiatives and partnerships. Over the past year, she has contributed to several major projects, including the resubmission of the HEADS Center's NIH grant, ongoing collaboration with the Maryland Department on Aging on the Longevity Ready Maryland initiative, and development of the NEXUS-funded project focused on strengthening Medicaid HCBS at the state level. She continues to leverage her background in policy and community engagement to build strategic relationships and create opportunities for Bloomberg students interested in aging policy and research.



Danielle Peereboom, MPH

As the Center's program manager, Peereboom provides administrative leadership to Center collaborations and initiatives by continuing to prioritize the Center's five-year strategic plan in guiding discussions and planning. She supports the Center's cross-School Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Population T32 Training Program and the Coalition for Care Partners Research Collaborative to build community and collaboration among researchers interested in improving care partner engagement through consumer-oriented health information technologies. Highlights this year include leading an issue brief summarizing findings and recommendations for promoting shared access to the patient portal; supporting the renewal of the T32 training program; building a strong partnership with the HPM Communications team to elevate the Center's visibility; providing project management support to a pilot to improve cognitive screening in two JHCP primary care practices; and contributing to the submission of several grant proposals in support of the Center's mission.



Lisa Reider, PhD, MHS

Reider is an Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management and expert in the design and conduct of multicenter clinical trials. Reider is the Associate Director of the Coordinating Center of the Major Extremity Trauma Research Consortium (METRC), a network of clinical centers and a data coordinating center that conducts multi-center clinical research studies. Highlights of the last year include publishing a brief report in the Journal of the American Geriatric Society that demonstrates a significant increase in dementia diagnosis following hip fracture in older adults, corresponding with higher healthcare cost. Findings demonstrate the importance of understanding the role of hip fracture in the trajectory of cognitive decline and diagnosis, and for identifying interventions that improve quality of care and recovery in these patients. This work has led Dr. Reider to partner with a multi-disciplinary team of clinical investigators on designing and trialing interventions to mitigate post operative delirium, which is common and increases risk for cognitive decline and lifelong functional impairment. Based on this work, she has been invited to participate in this year's NIH funded Network for Investigation of Delirium Unifying Scientists (NIDUS) bootcamp as a junior faculty advisor.



Kate Sam, BA

Sam is Senior Director of Communications & Marketing in the Department of Health Policy & Management, where she oversees efforts to promote research, policy recommendations and academic programs that serve the next generation of public health leaders. Sam also serves as co-chair of the department's IDARE (Inclusion, Diversity, Anti-Racism and Equity) Committee, striving to integrate IDARE values into departmental communications and culture. Previously, Sam led communications, marketing and fundraising programs for Baltimore-area nonprofits, including the Maryland Food Bank and Baltimore Community Foundation. Sam studied at Maryland Institute College of Art and later graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with an interdisciplinary degree in Art, Public Policy, and Sociology. At the Lipitz Center, Sam leads communications strategy, ensuring the Center's groundbreaking research reaches policymakers and the public.



Danny Scerpella, MPH

Scerpella is a Research Associate and core faculty in the Center. Scerpella submitted a manuscript analyzing the effect of uploading advance directives to the patient electronic health record on burdensome end-of-life care and the probability of dying in the hospital setting. He continues to build a partnership with Johns Hopkins Community Physicians (JHCP) to foster greater collaboration between Bloomberg School researchers and primary care settings, including the development of an organizational protocol to increase Medicare-reimbursed Cognitive Assessment and Care Planning visits. Scerpella leads the Center's student engagement team, which launched the Lipitz Student Fellowship program, a highly successful program to promote engagement among the Center's faculty and students. Scerpella and Dr. Kate Miller piloted a successful Topics in Aging and Disability Journal Club, which they are developing into a new Topics in Aging survey course. Finally, in partnership with the Department of Epidemiology, Scerpella has led the redesign of the Gerontology certificate at the Bloomberg School to be launched in AY '26-27 as the Certificate in Population Aging.



Karen Shen, PhD

Shen is an Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management and health economist. Her research focuses on understanding how financing and workforce policies such as Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and nursing home staffing regulations affect older adults and their caregivers. Highlights of the last year include publishing a paper on the prevalence of paying out-of-pocket for home care across the income spectrum in Health Affairs Scholar and a paper on an innovative incentive-based Medicaid reimbursement reform in Illinois on nursing home staffing in The Review of Economics and Statistics. She also received pilot funding through the Social Security Administration funded Center for Retirement Research at Boston College to study financial vulnerability among older adults and from the Hopkins Business of Health Initiative to study the impact of nursing home litigation.



Maureen Skehan, MSPH

Skehan is a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Epidemiology and is a core member of the NHATS team. Skehan is highly involved in operational aspects of NHATS and NSOC including study design, data management, and technical assistance and support for the studies' respective research communities. Over the past year, Skehan has managed applications and disclosure analysis for over 40 research groups applying for access to NHATS-CMS restricted data in the NIA Data LINKAGE enclave. In addition, Skehan has supported the dissemination and documentation of annual data files for NHATS and NSOC.



Nikki Ucheya, BA

Ucheya is a Digital Marketing & Communications Specialist in the Department of Health Policy and Management. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Studies at Johns Hopkins University and is an active member of the American Marketing Associations' Baltimore City chapter. Ucheya's role in the Lipitz Center involves creating digital media content that captures the work and activity of the Center's affiliates, such as award recipients, research studies, presentations, and media appearances. She also manages the Center's website to ensure information about the Center is up to date and easily accessible. Ucheya hopes to continue supporting the mission of the Lipitz Center by increasing her knowledge of best practices for communications and engaging with foundations of interest.



Jennifer Wolff, PhD, MHS

Wolff is the Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor of Health Policy and Management, jointly appointed in the Schools of Nursing and Medicine. Her work focuses on strategies to improve quality of care and life for those living with disability and serious illness and their care partners. She leads two NIA-funded embedded trials to improve communication among older adults with cognitive impairment in primary care (SHARE and SHARING Choices) a John A. Hartford Foundation-funded initiative to evaluate the spread of organizational strategies to increase uptake of patient portal use by care partners of older adults, and a leadership award by the National Institute on Aging to better understand and address the needs of caregivers to persons living with dementia through consumer health information technology. This year has been one of continuing to sustain and expand the Coalition for Care Partners: Connecting Care Partners Through Health Information Technology in collaboration with OpenNotes, the Hopkins' Economics of Alzheimer's Disease & Services (HEADS) Center, the renewal application of the Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations Training Program in partnership with colleagues across the Schools of Medicine and Nursing; and participating as a member of the Administration on Community Living's RAISE Family Caregiving Council.



MJ Wu, MSPH

Wu is a senior programmer analyst who joined the team in September 2021 after graduating from the Bloomberg School's Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) program in Health Policy and Management. Wu holds a bachelor's degree in human biology from the University of California, San Diego. He is interested in quality of care, patient safety, cost effectiveness, but most importantly learning more about data science. He has been involved in projects using the NHATS/NSOC data set and electronic medical record data. His Stata and R skills aid the team with data and statistical analysis including statistical modeling, basic natural language processing of a vast number of clinical notes and MyChart messages. Outside of being a data analyst, he produces and co-hosts a podcast "Everything is Public Health" with Bloomberg School professor Dr. Cassandra Crifasi. He also enjoys making and hosting trivia.



Claire Yang, MS

Yang is a statistical programmer analyst at the Department of Health Policy and Management. She holds a master's degree in Biostatistics from New York University. In her role, Yang is responsible for the analysis of large-scale datasets, particularly focusing on Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services and Nursing Facilities. Her research focuses on the aging population, including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), and examines the effects of financial, health, and labor policies on older adults and their caregivers. Yang's expertise in R, SAS, and Stata is instrumental in deriving actionable insights from complex datasets, thereby advancing the team's data and statistical analysis capabilities across various projects, involving datasets such as Medicaid, Medicare, NHATS, HRS, and CPS. Her analytical skills and in-depth knowledge contribute to the team's research initiatives and policy evaluations.

TRAINEES



Rohini Achal

Achal is a Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) – Health Policy student in the Department of Health Policy and Management and a 2024-2025 Lipitz Center Fellow. Her primary interests are family caregiving, long-term care, and disability policy. As a fellow, Achal worked with the Center's investigators on a multi-year study to advance the capacity of the National Family Caregiver and Native American Caregiver Support Programs to better recognize and support family caregivers. She also engaged in research focused on aging and long-term care policy, contributing to projects that advanced equity and access in health services. Achal additionally pursued numerous research opportunities with Dr. Katherine Miller, including studying caregiving populations and their outcomes, and developing visuals and written pieces to supplement her work in the classroom. Following her time in the program, Achal accepted a full-time position as a Population Health Policy Analyst at AHCA/NCAL (American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living).



Aditi Bajpai

Bajpai is a dedicated health sciences professional currently pursuing a Master of Health Science in Health Economics and Outcomes Research and a 2024-2025 Lipitz Center Fellow. She holds a PharmD and has experience in clinical pharmacy, market access, and biopharma intelligence. She engaged in the Maryland Department of Aging's Longevity Ready Maryland initiative to address challenges affecting the direct care workforce. Aditi Bajpai began the year developing an independent project, which offered valuable insights into project design, data access, and the real-world constraints of conducting research. This experience helped her build a stronger foundation in structuring and refining research questions. She later worked closely with her mentor, Dr. Kate Miller, to explore gaps in care for older adults and their families, contributing to policy-oriented writing and analysis. Following completion of the program, Bajpai is continuing her role as a research assistant at the Johns Hopkins Drug Access and Affordability Initiative and starting a new position as Product Experience Lead at Maven Bio.



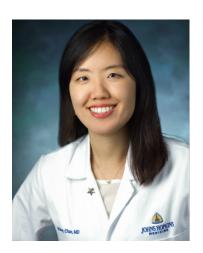
Alexa Bragg, MPH, MBA

Bragg is a second-year doctoral student in Health Services Research and Policy in the Department of Health Policy and Management and a predoctoral trainee in the Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 training program. Her research interests center on the influence of contextual factors, particularly financial determinants, on the experiences and outcomes of older adults and their family caregivers. Bragg received her MPH and MBA from Boston University in 2023. She also served as a Health Analyst for the Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), MITRE. Bragg presented findings from her study examining differences in caregiver networks among older adults at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting in November 2024. She researches trends in financial support to older adults using data from the Health and Retirement Study, in collaboration with Drs. Katherine Miller, Chanee Fabius, and Jack Iwashyna. This work serves to inform her dissertation, examining the range of financial supports available to family caregivers, with a focus on the implementation and impact of caregiver tax credits.



Abigayle Burnett

Burnett is a Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) – Health Policy student in the Department of Health Policy and Management and a 2024-2025 Lipitz Center Fellow. As a fellow, Burnett worked with mentor Dr. Chanee Fabius on the Maryland Department of Aging's Longevity Ready Maryland initiative, supporting the development of recommendations to address challenges affecting the direct care workforce. Passionate about social determinants of health, Burnett is eager to apply evidence-based research to health policy. Burnett recently accepted a position as a Health Policy Analyst Associate at the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board, where she will contribute to efforts aimed at improving access to affordable medications across the state.



Kacey Chae, MD

Chae joined the Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 following her Obesity Medicine fellowship in August 2023 in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Chae received her bachelor's degree at the University of Virginia and a Doctor of Medicine from Eastern Virginia Medical School. She completed her Internal Medicine residency training at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and is a board-certified internal medicine physician. In her first year as a postdoctoral fellow, she pursued a Master of Health Sciences through the Graduate Training Programs in Clinical Investigation. Upon completion of her postdoctoral fellowship this summer, Chae will begin a Assistant Professor position at Wake Forest University.



Natalie Davoodi, MPH

Davoodi is a second-year doctoral student in Health Services Research and Policy in the Department of Health Policy and Management and a predoctoral trainee in the Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 training program. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physiology and Neuroscience from the University of California, San Diego, and a Master of Public Health from the Brown University School of Public Health. She is pursuing dissertation research on supplemental benefits within Medicare Advantage, specifically dental benefits, and their impacts on access and outcomes for older adults in those plans, as well as comparisons with beneficiaries in Traditional Medicare who do not have those benefits. Davoodi has also been working with Dr. Karen Shen on her NIA-funded project examining home and community-based services and their connection with nursing home placement for dually eligible beneficiaries, leveraging data from Medicare and Medicaid claims.



Abigail Fassinger

Fassinger recently graduated from Johns Hopkins University in May 2025 with a B.S. degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology and a B.A. in French within three years. She joined Dr. Wolff's team as a research assistant in Fall 2022 and has since worked with several Center faculty. In the last year, she was a key contributor to Dr. Miller's Nexusfunded project: Elevating Evidence-Based Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports: A Compendium of Policies where she extracted data elements from Medicaid waivers, state plans and state plan amendments. She also worked with Dr. Martha Abshire Saylor in the School of Nursing on qualitative analysis of the SHARE intervention, leading to a co-authorship opportunity. Due to Fassinger's impressive contributions to the Center, she was nominated this Spring for the second time for the JHU Student Employee of the Year Award. Fassinger recently accepted a full-time position as Ophthalmic Technician Assistant at the Wilmer Eye Institute while preparing to attend medical school in 2026.



Sarah Jabour, MD

Sarah Jabour is a second-year general surgery resident at Johns Hopkins University who was appointed to the Health Services and Outcomes Research in Aging Populations T32 training program in July 2024 as a postdoctoral fellow. She is pursuing a PhD in Clinical Investigation through the Graduate Training Program in Clinical Investigation (GTPCI) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is passionate about integrating frailty assessments and interventions into surgical care with a particular emphasis on quality-of-life outcomes and the role of the social determinants of health. Jabour holds a B.A. in Public Health and International Studies with a minor in Social Policy from Johns Hopkins University and an M.D. from the University of Michigan. Under the mentorship of Dr. Susan Gearhart, she is evaluating the impact of geriatric surgical outcomes on improving care for older frail surgical patients. In May 2025, Jabour was selected as the 2025 Delta Omega Scholarship Competition Winner in the Applied Research category for her submission entitled "Barriers and Facilitators to Geriatric Surgical Pathway Implementation: Improving Surgical Care for Our Aging Population."



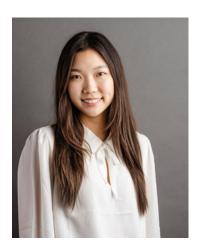
Emerald Jenkins, PhD-DNP, AGPCNP-BC, MSN, RN

Jenkins was a postdoctoral fellow appointed to the Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 Training Program until December 2024 when she began a position with Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) as a Clinical Comparative Effectiveness Research Program Officer. Her research focuses on developing community-engaged data driven interventions impacting physical and mental health outcomes in older adults by leveraging quantitative and qualitative methodologies. She holds master's degrees in medical science and nursing, and dual doctoral degrees as a PhD and DNP. During her training, Jenkins served as an Adult/Geriatric Nurse Practitioner in primary care, assisted living and home-based settings, and as a Clinical Dementia Specialist Telecollaborator on Dr. Quincy Samus's MIND at Home Study.



Andrew Jopson, MPH

Jopson is a fifth-year Health Services Research and Policy doctoral student in the Department of Health Policy and Management and predoctoral trainee in the Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 training program. Andrew earned his bachelor's degree at University of California, Berkeley and his MPH at the University of Washington (UW) School of Public Health. He previously worked as a research scientist in the Department of Family Medicine at UW where he focused on health workforce issues and the development of health career pathways. Over the past year, Jopson has continued to support Center faculty through the NHATS Contextual Factors Geo-Linkages Working Group where he co-leads the Methods sub-working group. His dissertation examines the relationship between Medicaid managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) programs and care experiences of older dual-enrollees. Two highlights from the last year were co-authoring a publicly available directory of contextual measures and publishing a paper in JAMDA titled "Profile of Older Dual-Enrollees Living in Areas with Managed Long-Term Services and Supports" that has informed his dissertation work.



Chloe Kim

Kim is a rising senior studying Public Health and Psychology on the pre-med path at Johns Hopkins University. She joined the Lipitz Center as a research assistant in the summer of 2024, hoping to expand her interest in caregiving and aging. She started working with Dr. Chanee Fabius to examine and improve methods of communication between home care aides, family caregivers, and older adults. She assisted with literature reviews, consenting participants, screening for eligibility, and conducting interviews. She also joined Dr. Katherine Miller's team focusing on Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services policies, assisting with data collection, data quality checks, and literature reviews.



Sanika Kulkarni

Kulkarni is a current Master of Health Science (MHS) candidate in the Health Economics & Outcomes Research program and a 2024-2025 Lipitz Center Fellow. She is interested in the health economics and financing behind long-term and end-of-life care. Kulkarni grew up watching her parents learn to meet the complex needs of her grandparents as caregivers. As a fellow, Kulkarni worked closely with her mentor, Dr. Karen Shen, on multiple projects alongside Dr. Ettman and Dr. Miller, including a scoping review and writing different proposals for grant funding. She also contributed to the CARE Environmental Scan project, a multi-year study led by Dr. Shih and Dr. Fields at Emory, aimed at strengthening the National Family Caregiver and Native American Caregiver Support Programs. In addition to continuing her work on the CARE Environmental Scan project, she is collaborating with Dr. Albert Wu at the School of Public Health and actively working toward her long-term goal of pursuing a PhD.



Jeff Marr, BA

Marr is a graduate of the Health Economics and Policy PhD program in the Department of Health Policy and Management after successfully defending his dissertation "Algorithmic Decision-Making by Health Insurers: Implications for Patients and Providers" in May 2025. His current research focuses on Medicare, private health insurance, and the use of AI in health care. Marr was awarded the 2024 Judith Dellinger Kasper Dissertation Award for his project "Artificial Intelligence and Health Care Decision Making: Evidence from Post-Acute Care Prior Authorizations in Medicare Advantage." This summer, Marr will join the faculty at Brown University as Assistant Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice.



Jenni Seale Reiff, MS, OTR/L

Reiff is a graduate of the Health Services Research and Policy PhD program in the Department of Health Policy and Management after successfully defending her dissertation "Characterizing and Assessing Prehabilitation Among Medicare Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries Undergoing Lower Extremity Joint Replacement" in December 2024. In November, Reiff will present dissertation findings on the prevalence and characteristics of prehabilitation for hip and knee replacement at the 2025 Gerontological Society of America annual research meeting. Reiff plans to start an advanced postdoctoral fellowship in geriatrics through the Atlanta/Birmingham Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center in the fall.



Mfon Umoh, MD, PhD

Umoh is a postdoctoral fellow who was appointed to the Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 following her clinical geriatrics fellowship in July 2023. Dr. Umoh holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and Applied Science and a Doctor of Medicine and a Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience from Emory University. She completed her Internal Medicine residency training at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Internal Medicine Residency Program and is board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine. Her work focuses on the overlap between delirium and dementia and the relationship between social isolation and dementia in older adults. She received a pilot award from the HEADS Center to characterize the association of several socioeconomic factors with risk of delirium using Medicare claims records from hospitalizations of participants in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study, a large-scale, long-term prospective study. After completion of her postdoctoral fellowship in July 2025, Umoh will start a faculty position as an Assistant Professor in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine's Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology.



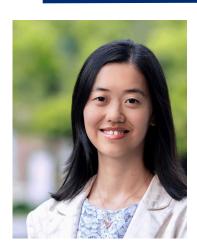
Aleksandra Wec, BA

Wec is a fourth-year Health Services Research and Policy doctoral student in the Department of Health Policy and Management. Prior to her time at Hopkins, Wec worked as a research assistant at the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research and at Mathematica as a Survey Analyst. Wec's dissertation analyzes patterns of patient portal messaging by older adults. Wec is leading a study of EHR data examining follow-up actions when subjective memory concerns are expressed during a Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. She will present this work at a poster session at the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) in Chicago, IL. Wec is the 2025 awardee of the Judith Dellinger Kasper Dissertation Award for her project, "Understanding Patient-Initiated Secure Messaging Intensity Among Older Adults."



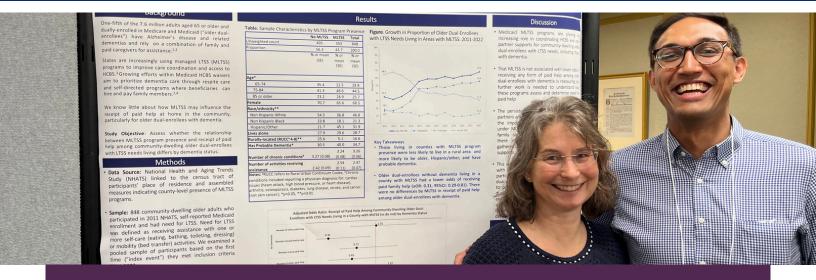
Yutong Zhang, MS

Zhang is a rising second-year Health Services Research and Policy doctoral student in the Department of Health Policy and Management. Her research interests include aging, policy evaluation and quality improvement for long-term care and special-needs populations, Medicare and Medicaid, and caregiving. Yutong received her M.S. in Health Economics and Policy from Weill Cornell Medicine in 2023, and her B.E. in Economic Statistics from the University of International Business and Economics in 2022. During her first academic year, in addition to completing the required coursework and PhD qualification exam, she initiated research projects on Medicaid HCBS policy evaluation and family caregivers under the guidance of her advisors Katherine Miller and Chanee Fabius. These efforts led to one conference abstract, one grant proposal, and one paper submission. Over the summer, she will continue developing her own research while also contributing as a research assistant on additional projects.



Zhang Zhang, Ph.D., MSc

Zhang is a postdoctoral fellow appointed jointly in the Health Services and Outcomes Research in Aging Populations T32 program and the Hopkins Business of Health Initiative (HBHI). Her current research focuses on technology innovation and insurance payment policies to improve health service delivery and outcome for complex health conditions. She received her Ph.D. in Health Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her MSc in Health policy, Planning, and Financing from the London School of Economics & London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This year, Zhang earned the HBHI Truveta Electronic Health Record Pilot Award to support her research on exploring the impact of health information technology on dementia care. In addition, she received 4 other recognitions for her contributions to aging-related research: the AI, Technology and Aging Summit Distinguished Scholar Award; the NIA/AGS/Alzheimer's Diagnosis in Older Adults with Chronic Conditions Conference "Rising Star" Award; the Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease Workshop Emerging Scholar Award; and the Population Association of America Coordinating Center's Professional Development Award.



RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Center's portfolio of scholarly activities is supported by 3 streams of funding: 1.) Center endowment, 2.) Departmental support of faculty teaching and service activities, and 3.) Private foundation and governmental agency funding of investigator-initiated research studies. Our research portfolio encompasses four sets of activities across domains as follows:

Domain #1. Strengthening the direct care workforce. Direct care workers are certified nursing assistants, home health aides, personal care aides, and paid companions who deliver care and task assistance to support persons with disabilities in the home, residential care, or nursing facilities. Direct care workers may be paid by insurers, or out of pocket by families. Center faculty conduct research to characterize direct care workers and their workplace environment, develop and test behavioral and systems-level interventions to improve direct worker capacity, and undertake policy-oriented evaluations to assess the effects of legislation and programs to better support the direct care workforce.

Domain #2. Supporting family caregivers. Family (as defined by each person) and unpaid caregivers provide care and task assistance for health and functioning reasons. Center faculty conduct observational research to characterize caregivers and their caregiving contexts, lead interventions to improve caregiver capacity, and undertake evaluations to assess the effects of policies and programs to better support the caregiving workforce.

Domain #3. Advancing evidence-based rehabilitative care and long-term services and supports (LTSS). LTSS refers to critical programs that expand capacity (e.g., through using assistive devices) or reduce environmental demands (e.g., by modifying the built environment or introducing personal care) to enable persons with physical, mental, or cognitive limitations to undertake routine daily activities. Center faculty lead studies to elucidate the quantity and effects of LTSS on individual, payer, and care delivery systems.

Domain #4: Promoting person- and family-centered systems of care. The current care delivery environment is expensive, fragmented, unequal, and too often dehumanizing. Center faculty lead research to discover, support, and disseminate practices to promote efficient, respectful, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, equitable care that is consistent with individual wishes.

The following text provides a list of research grants that were active or awarded in the reporting period of July 2024 June 2025 that are led by core faculty and trainees, or for which core faculty are key personnel in a mentoring capacity. This list is in descending order with the most recent start date of the study.

Title: Strategies to Improve Shared Care between Family Caregivers and the Paid Direct Care

Workforce.

Sponsor: Johns Hopkins University Nexus Awards

Principal Investigator: Chanee Fabius

Dates: 7/2025 - 6/2026

Objective: To host a convening assembling JHU faculty, staff, and students, as well as other

stakeholders to promote strategies to support and sustain shared care networks.

Title: Understanding Patient-Initiated Secure Messaging Intensity Among Older Adults

Sponsor: Judith Dellinger Kasper Endowment Fund

Principal Investigator: Aleksandra Wec

Dates: 7/2025-6/2026

Objective: To identify differences in the characteristics of Medicare beneficiaries with LTSS needs living in areas with and without Medicaid managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) program presence and assess whether MLTSS program presence affects caregiving context and experiences of care among older dual enrollees with LTSS needs.

Title: Examining differences in nursing home staffing structures and job quality by worker

demographics and impacts on vulnerable populations living in nursing homes

Sponsor: Faculty Innovation Fund Principal Investigator: Karen Shen

Date: 7/2025 - 6/2026

Objective: To examine how nursing home staffing structures and job quality differ across nursing homes with different staff demographics, and the association of these measures with health outcomes for people with dementia and people with mental illness living in nursing homes.

Title: From Preference to Policy: Understanding Family Caregiving Preferences and Needs to Inform Policy

Solution

Sponsor: Center for Equity in Aging, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Principal Investigator: Kate Miller, Jennifer Wolff

Date: 7/2025 - 6/2026

Objective: To generate pilot data that explores whether family caregiving is driven by personal preference or by a lack of affordable, high-quality alternatives, in order to inform aging and caregiving policy solutions that better support older adults and individuals with serious illness living in the community.

Title: The Medicaid Waiver Dataset Initiative: The Role of Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services in Health and Health Care for Persons Living with Alzheimer's Disease and Related

Dementias

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging Principal Investigator: Katherine Miller

Dates: 5/2025-5/2027

Objective: To establish a validated methodology to catalog HCBS waiver characteristics and describe

users of HCBS waivers among people with ADRD.

Title: The Impact of Litigation on Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Sponsor: Hopkins Business of Health Initiative, Johns Hopkins University

Principal Investigator: Yaa Akosa Antwi and Karen Shen

Date: 1/2025-12/2025

Objective: To construct a database of litigation against nursing homes and understand the impact of

litigation on the nursing home subject to litigation as well as neighboring facilities.

Title: Incentivizing Quality Nursing Home Care Through Inspections and Payment Policies

Sponsor: Arnold Ventures

Dates: 1/2025-6/2027

Principal Investigator: Ashvin Gandhi (Karen Shen, Co-Investigator)

Objective: To examine whether changing the timing of inspections or an innovative incentive-based

reimbursement reform can improve staffing and quality of nursing home care.

Title: Quality Enhancement Research Initiative and VA Caregiver Support Program Principal Investigator: Megan Shepherd-Banigan (Katherine Miller, Associate Director)

Sponsor: VA Caregiver Support Program Partnered Evaluation Center

Dates: 10/2024 - 9/2027

Objective: To evaluate the impacts of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and the Program of General Caregiver Support Services by partnering with the VHA Caregiver Support Program and the Office of Care Management and Social Work to assess the value and use of both programs by Veterans and their caregivers.

Title: Strengthening the Dementia Care Workforce: Analyzing Economic Policies' influence on

Workers and their Patients Living with Dementia

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Principal Investigator: Coe, NB (Katherine Miller, Co-investigator)

Dates: 9/2024-8/2029

Objective: To estimate the impact of three economic policy levers - wages, unionization, and staffing

regulations – on improving the lives of the dementia care workforce and their patients.

Title: Financial Vulnerability among Older Adults and the Design of Resource Limits for Safety Net Programs

Sponsor: Center for Retirement Research at Boston College (Social Security Administration

Retirement and Disability Research Consortium)

Dates: 9/2024-8/2025

Principal Investigators: Amanda Kreider and Karen Shen

Objective: To examine trends in Medicaid enrollment and financial vulnerability among older adults and to evaluate the impact of Medicaid eligibility policies on financial vulnerability among older adults.

Title: Geographic Variations in Health Care: Overcoming Bias, Expanding Generalizability, and

Improving Relevance

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

Principal Investigator: O'Malley (Ellesse-Roselee Akré, Co-investigator)

Dates: 8/2024-5/2028

Objective: To utilize the latest innovations in network and geospatial analyses to define new analysis areas for healthcare markets in the U.S. (and a user-friendly tool for forming them), allowing for heterogeneity across population strata and the construction of regional health disparity indices, and the development of statistical methods to account for sources of bias.

Title: The National Health and Aging Trends Study and National Study of Caregiving

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Principal Investigator: Jennifer Schrack, Vicki Freedman (Jennifer Wolff, Co-investigator; Maureen E.

Skehan, Senior Research Associate)

Dates: 7/2024-6/2029

Objective: To extend and enhance the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) and National Study of Caregiving (NSOC) to promote the study of late-life disability, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD), and related care.

Title: Understanding and Addressing Disparities in Primary Care: A National Mixed Methods Study

Sponsor: NIH/NIA

Principal Investigator: Schifferdecker (Ellesse-Roselee Akré, Co-investigator)

Dates: 7/1/2024-6/30/2028

Objective: Examine the role primary care plays an essential role in the prevention, treatment, and ongoing management of the many chronic conditions that contribute not only to premature death and disability overall but also to the pervasive health disparities observed among older adults in the United States.

Title: Elevating Evidence-Based Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Services and

Supports: A Compendium of Policies

Sponsor: Johns Hopkins University NEXUS

Principal Investigator: Katherine Miller (Chanee Fabius, Co-investigator)

Dates: 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026

Objective: To 1) understand the scope of Medicaid HCBS policies and regulations; 2) examine which Medicaid HCBS policies and regulations are associated with measures of high-quality care; 3) develop a state Medicaid HCBS scorecard; and 4) disseminate our scorecard to policymakers and stakeholders.

Title: From Preference to Policy: Understanding Family Caregiving Preferences and Needs to Inform Policy Solution.

Sponsor: Center for Equity in Aging, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Principal Investigator: Katherine Miller

Dates: 7/2024 - 6/30/2026

Objective: To understand preferences from caregivers and non-caregivers to provide unpaid care

versus purchase direct care.

Title: The Impact of Place on Health Care Use for Medicaid Enrollees Living with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia

Sponsor: Bloomberg Faculty Innovation Fund

Principal Investigator: Katherine Miller

Dates: 7/2024-6/2025

Objective: To establish a validated methodology to catalog HCBS waiver characteristics and describe users of HCBS waivers.

Title: Artificial Intelligence and Health Care Decision Making: Evidence from Post-Acute Care Prior

Authorizations in Medicare Advantage

Sponsor: Judith Dellinger Kasper Endowment Fund

Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Marr

Dates: 6/15/2024-6/14/2025

Objective: To examine the causal effect of the use of AI-aided prior authorization on health care use

and patient outcomes.

Title: Use of Self-funded Paid Care Across the Financial Resource Spectrum Among People With and

Without Dementia (Hopkins Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Services pilot grant)

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Principal Investigator: Jennifer Reckrey (Karen Shen, Co-Investigator)

Dates: 6/1/2024-5/31/2025

Objective: To examine the prevalence, intensity, and financial burden of out-of-pocket spending on

paid care for older adults, by their level of financial resources and dementia status.

Title: State Policy Responses to COVID-19 and Workforce Dynamics: Examining Industry Exit Trends for Direct Care Workers and Firms

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging via Advancing Workforce Analysis and Research for Dementia (AWARD) Network

Multi-Principal Investigator: Katherine Miller and Karen Shen

Dates: 4/1/2024-3/30/2025

Objective: To describe turnover among direct care workers and firm closures before and during the pandemic and to examine the role of state-level wage supports in mediating turnover/firm closure.

Title: Caregivers in the Workplace: A Convening to Develop a Profile of Employer Best Practices.

Sponsor: Hopkins Business of Health Initiative, Johns Hopkins University

Multi-Principal Investigator: Katherine Miller and Karen Shen

Dates: 1/1/2024-12/31/2024

Objective: To identify attributes and scaling of best practices for employers to support working family

(unpaid) caregivers.

Title: Patterns & Preferences of Home-Based Service Use for Persons with Dementia

Sponsor: Alzheimer's Association

Principal Investigator: Julia Burgdorf (Katherine Miller, Co-Investigator)

Dates: 11/1/2023-10/31/2025

Objective: To describe home- and community-based service (HCBS) use across the spectrum of payers and providers for people living with dementia, identify individual and cultural factors associated with variation in use, and gather perspectives from people living with dementia and their caregivers on challenges and preferences related to HCBS access.

Title: Causes and Consequences of Healthcare Inequity in Alzheimer's Disease and Related

Dementias

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Principal Investigator: Barnato (Ellesse-Roselee Akré, Co-investigator)

Dates: 8/15/2023-2/1/2025

Objective: To examine inequities in healthcare services and delivery for persons with ADRD and

with a lens on racial inequities.

Title: Improving Information Sharing Between Caregivers and Home Care Aides Caring for Persons

Living with ADRD

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Date: 1/1/2023-12/31/2027

Principal Investigator: Chanee Fabius

Objective: To develop and refine a home care role and preference guide to improve information

sharing between family caregivers of older adults living with ADRD and home care aides.

Title: Identifying hospital and patient social determinants of health factors from hospital-level

cancer healthcare disparities

Sponsor: American Cancer Society

Principal Investigator: Khayal (Ellesse-Roselee Akré, Co-investigator)

Dates: 1/1/2023-2/1/2025

Objective: To develop a measurement tool to elucidate patient-level healthcare utilization behaviors, quantify within-hospital cancer healthcare disparities by patient groups, and identify the factors (hospital and patient social determinants of health) affecting local inequalities that lead to these healthcare disparities.

Title: From Opinion to Evidence: Multi-Site Evaluation of Custom Dynamic Orthosis Best Practices

Sponsor: Department of Defense

Principal Investigator: Jason Wilken (Lisa Reider, Co-investigator)

Dates: 9/2/2022-8/31/2026

Objective: To evaluate satisfaction, fit and performance of a custom dynamic orthotic; to test three

different CDO configurations which participants receive in a randomized order.

Title: eAlign: A Patient Portal-based Intervention to Align Medications with What Matters Most

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Principal Investigator: Ariel Green (Danny Scerpella, Co-Investigator)

Dates: 8/2022-7/2027

Objective: To implement and evaluate ALIGN in a full-scale, Stage IV effectiveness trial across Johns Hopkins Community Physicians (JHCP) This two-arm, cluster randomized pragmatic trial will test the effectiveness of the pharmacist-led, primary care-based deprescribing intervention for PLWD and their care partners on the proportion of patients who deprescribe at least one medication by 3 months.

Title: Identifying caregiver needs in a clinical setting

Sponsor: Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

Principal Investigator: DesRoches (Jennifer Wolff, Site PI)

Dates: 1/1/2022-12/30/2024

Objective: To implement a demonstration in three health systems to increase the uptake and use of shared electronic health record access by family caregivers of older adults, evaluate its effects and disseminate best practices to promote national adoption.



Title: Consumer Health Information Technology to Engage and Support ADRD Caregivers: Research

Program to Address ADRD Implementation Milestone 13.I

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Principal Investigator: Jennifer Wolff (Chanee Fabius, Co-investigator)

Date: 7/15/2021-6/30/2026

Objective: To address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Implementation Milestone 13.I to

support research on technology-based dementia assessment, care, and management.

Title: Engaging Family Caregivers through Shared Access to the Electronic Health Record

Sponsor: John A. Hartford Foundation

Multi-Principal Investigator: Jennifer Wolff & Cait DesRoches

Date: 7/1/2021-6/30/2025 (NCE)

Objective: To implement a demonstration in three health systems to increase the uptake and use of shared electronic health record access by family caregivers of older adults, evaluate its effects and disseminate best practices to promote national adoption.

Title: Improving Information Sharing Between Caregivers and Home Care Aides Caring for Persons

Living with ADRD

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Date: 1/1/2023-12/31/2027

Principal Investigator: Chanee Fabius

Objective: To develop and refine a home care role and preference guide to improve information

sharing between family caregivers of older adults living with ADRD and home care aides.

Title: A Phase 2a Multicenter Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of PolyEthylene Glycol (PEG) mediated fusion (PEG fusion) compared to standard of care in the repair of mixed motor-sensory acute peripheral nerve injuries (PNI) for rapid and immediate improvement in outcome

Sponsor: The Department of Defense

Principal Investigator: Jaimie Shores, MD (Lisa Reider, MCC PI)

Date: 10/1/2020- 9/30/2025

Objective: To determine the safety of PEG fusion when used with primary repair or reconstruction in patients with an acute upper extremity peripheral nerve injury and to examine the effect of PEG fusion recovery of sensory and motor function.

Title: Person-Reported and Health Care Utilization Outcomes of Home and Community Based

Care Recipients with and Without Alzheimer's Disease and Its Related Dementias

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Principal Investigator: Tetyana Shippee and Eric Jutkowitz (Chanee Fabius, Co-investigator)

Date: 9/1/2020-8/31/2024

Objective: To document trends in HCBS used and/or desired by clients, determine client and state-level factors that promote person-reported HCBS outcomes, and determine the association between health plan-level HCBS person-reported quality and health care use for persons with and without AD/ADRD.

Title: Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 Training Program

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Multi-Principal Investigator: Jennifer Wolff & Cynthia Boyd

Date: 9/1/2020- 8/31/2030

Objective: To produce the next generation of researchers with robust training in person and family-centered health services and outcomes research, as applied to geriatrics and gerontology.

Title: Hopkins' Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Services (HEADS) Center

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Multi-Principal Investigator: Daniel Polsky & Jennifer Wolff

Date: 7/1/2020-6/31/2025

Objective: The Hopkins' Economics of Alzheimer's Disease & Services (HEADS) Center builds the field of ADRD-related economics and health services research and its impact through training emerging and established investigators, developing research infrastructure, and forging linkages with policy and practice communities to disseminate new knowledge.

Title: Involving Family to Improve Advance Care Planning for Primary Care Patients with ADRD

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging Principal Investigator: Jennifer Wolff Date: 8/1/2019 - 3/31/2026 (NCE)

Objective: To refine and test the effectiveness of an advance care planning and communication

intervention for high-risk older adults with ADRD.

Title: Trends and Dynamics in Caregiving for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: Extending

the National Study of Caregiving Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Multi-Principal Investigator: Jennifer Wolff & Vicki Freedman (Maureen Skehan, Research Associate)

Dates: 6/15/2019-6/14/2026 (NCE)

Objective: To collect and disseminate new longitudinal national data to enhance understanding of informal caregiving to older adults with ADRD; to examine how informal ADRD caregivers' experiences and outcomes are changing over recent (2011-2020) and longer-term (1999-2020) time periods.

Title: Effect of early weight bearing on rehabilitation outcomes in patients with unicondylar

proximal tibia fractures and bimalleolar ankle fractures

Sponsor: Department of Defense

Principal Investigator: William Obremskey (Lisa Reider, METRC PI)

Dates: 10/1/2018-9/30/2024

Objective: To compare the effects of early weight bearing versus delayed weight bearing for patients

sustaining ankle and tibia plateau fractures.

Title: Pragmatic Trial to Improve Communication for Primary Care Patients with ADRD

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging

Multi-Principal Investigator: Jennifer Wolff & Sydney M. Dy

Date: 9/1/2018-6/30/2025 (NCE)

Objective: To refine and test the effectiveness of an advance care planning intervention for older

adults with ADRD through proactive engagement of families in primary care.

Title: Multi-center phase 2 trial to test ability for stem cell therapy to induce palmo-plantar skin at

the stump site of amputees

Sponsor: Department of Defense

Principal Investigator: Luis Garza (Lisa Reider, METRC PI)

Dates: 09/1/2018- 08/31/2024

Objective: To test the safety and efficacy of volar fibroblast injections for increasing epidermal

thickness at the stump site in transtibial amputees.

Title: The Joint Warfighters Program Sponsor: Department of Defense

Principal Investigator: Ellen MacKenzie (Lisa Reider, METRC PI)

Dates: 9/1/2017-8/31/2024

Objective: To develop Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) and criteria for the appropriate use of the guidelines through development of Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC). This grant would also support enrollment and patient follow-up in two ongoing METRC studies (TAOS and PAIN).

Title: Use of the Health Equity Framework to Characterize Multi-Level Factors Correlated with Pain and the Receipt of the Direct Care Workforce in Older Adults with Dementia

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging via Advancing Workforce Analysis and Research for Dementia (AWARD) Network.

Principal Investigator: Emerald Jenkins

Dates: 05/2024-04/2025

Objective: To describe people living with dementia who also live with chronic pain and to examine the role of the direct care workforce to support optimal care for people living with dementia and pain.

Title: VA Partnered Evidence-Based Policy Resource Center Sponsor: VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

Principal Investigator: Austin Frakt (Katherine Miller, Co-Investigator)

Dates: Funded 10/2023

Objective: To provide timely, rigorous data analysis to support the development of high-priority policy, planning, and management initiatives; to coordinate and support the design and implementation of randomized program evaluations with strong potential to improve the quality and efficiency of VA healthcare.



PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH

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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Center is committed to educating and supporting the next generation of leaders. Center faculty teach courses that support the Johns Hopkins University Certificate in Gerontology (Fabius), direct the MHS in Health Economics (Ballreich), teach courses in Health Economics and Economic Evaluation (Shen, Ballreich, Miller), social policy (Akré) and core doctoral coursework in proposal writing (Reider). Center faculty mentor undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students, and post-doctoral fellows through a wide range of activities, including capstone projects, student practicums, dissertation research, grant-writing, and leading or contributing to peer-reviewed publications. The Center is the home of an NIH-supported T32 Training Program in Health Services Outcomes Research for Aging Populations, which bridges the Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine.

Courses Taught by Center Faculty in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School include:

Term 1: August 2024

309.716.01 Advanced Methods in Health Services Research Analysis (3 credit) – Kate Miller

313.601.01 Economic Evaluation I (3 credits) - Jeromie Ballreich

313.601.81 Economic Evaluation I (3 credits) - Jeromie Ballreich

313.870.01 PhD Seminar in Health Economics & Policy (1credit)- Karen Shen

Term 2: October 2024

300.870.01 The Research and Proposal Writing Process I (2 credits) - Lisa Reider

309.605.01 Health Issues for Aging Populations (3 credits) – Chanee Fabius

313.601.81 Economic Evaluation I (3 credits) – Jeromie Ballreich

313.870.01 PhD Seminar in Health Economics & Policy (1credit)- Karen Shen

318.623.01 Social Policy for Marginalized and Disenfranchised Populations in the United States (3 credits) – Ellesse Akré

Term 3: January 2024

313.870.01 PhD Seminar in Health Economics & Policy (1credit)- Karen Shen

Term 4: March 2024

300.871.01 The Research and Proposal Writing Process II (2 credits)- Lisa Reider

309.720.01 Applied Econometrics for Health Policy Research (3 credits)- Karen Shen

313.790.81 Introduction to Economic Evaluation (3 credits) - Jeromie Ballreich

313.865.01 MHS Capstone in Health Economics (2 credits) - Jeromie Ballreich

313.870.01 PhD Seminar in Health Economics & Policy (1credit)- Karen Shen

LIPITZ CENTER STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS-NEW THIS YEAR

In 2024, the Center launched its first-ever Student Fellowship program, designed to engage and support the next generation of public health professionals committed to improving the lives of older adults and caregivers. The fellowship offers a one-year opportunity for master's students to work alongside faculty on projects that span policy analysis, data translation, community engagement, and systems-level innovation. Each of this year's four fellows was matched with a faculty mentor and integrated into a high-impact project aligned with their interests in aging, caregiving, and long-term services and supports.



PROGRAM GOALS AND IMPACT

In its first year, the fellowship succeeded in:

- Providing students with meaningful, hands-on experiences that deepened their understanding of aging and caregiving policy.
- Supporting key Center projects with expanded student capacity in areas such as workforce development, caregiving infrastructure, and Medicaid-funded services.
- Creating new pathways for students to connect academic learning with practicebased solutions, particularly through engagement with state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and interdisciplinary faculty.
- Elevating student visibility through presentations, internal seminars, and an endof-year showcase highlighting their contributions.
- Creating opportunities for professional development, structured feedback, and peer learning. The students used their fellowship experiences to shape thesis projects, inform job searches, or identify research and policy pathways for further study.

MEET OUR 2024-2025 FELLOWS

Rohini Achal

MSPH, Health Policy & Management | Mentored by Dr. Kate Miller

Rohini contributed to a multi-year effort focused on modernizing the National Family Caregiver and Native American Caregiver Support Programs. Her work involved background research on underserved caregivers, particularly youth and those caring for adults with disabilities. Her passion for equity-driven policy and long-term care financing shaped both her day-to-day research and broader advocacy efforts.

Aditi Bajpal

MHS, Health Economics & Outcomes Research | Mentored by Dr. Kate Miller

Aditi brought her clinical pharmacy and biopharmaceutical background to several projects focused on medication safety for older adults. She contributed to the Longevity Ready Maryland initiative, offering analytic support and insights into the safe and appropriate use of medications across care settings. Her work supported the state's strategic planning efforts and highlighted how clinical training can inform systems-level change.

Abigayle Burnett

MSPH, Health Policy & Management | Mentored by Dr. Chanee Fabius

Abigayle's previous research on food insecurity and social isolation among older adults informed her work on Maryland's direct care workforce policy initiatives. She helped translate data into actionable recommendations and applied a social determinants of health lens to her analysis. Her commitment to community-centered policymaking was evident in her contributions to workgroups and policy briefs.

Sanika Kulkarni

MHS, Health Economics & Outcomes Research | Mentored by Dr. Karen Shen

Sanika focused on the financing and economics of long-term and end-of-life care. Her fellowship projects included a scoping review on credit scores and health, contributions to the CARE Environmental Scan, and analysis of technology-driven solutions to support aging populations. She connected her academic training to real-world applications, particularly in areas related to health equity and informatics.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the fellowship's inaugural year, we are proud of both the individual accomplishments of our students and the collective impact they've had on the Center's work. Their insights, energy, and critical thinking have strengthened ongoing research and sparked new ideas across our portfolio.

We are excited to bring the fellowship back in 2025–2026, continuing to refine the experience and deepen our investment in cultivating the next generation of leaders in aging and caregiving policy. By fostering mentorship, applied learning, and interdisciplinary engagement, the Center remains committed to building the future of this critical field—one student at a time.

T32 TRAINING PROGRAM IN HEALTH SERVICE AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH FOR AGING POPULATIONS-RENEWED FOR ANOTHER 5 YEARS!

The <u>Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 Training Program</u> at Johns Hopkins University seeks to produce the next generation of scientists with rigorous training in person and family-centered health services and outcomes research with a focus on older adults and is led by co-directors Cynthia Boyd, MD, MPH and Jennifer Wolff, PhD, and Associate Directors Katherine Ornstein, PhD, and Nancy Schoenborn, MD, MHS. This Cross-School program, housed in the Lipitz Center, draws on the rich resources for research in health services, health economics, gerontology, nursing, health informatics, and geriatrics across the Johns Hopkins University, including the Bloomberg School of Public Health, the School of Medicine, and the School of Nursing.

Pre- and post-doctoral trainees appointed to the program in the 2024 – 2025 academic year:

POST-DOCTORAL

Kacey Chae, MD Emerald Jenkins, PhD, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, MSN, RN Mfon Umoh, MD Zhang Zhang, PhD, MSc

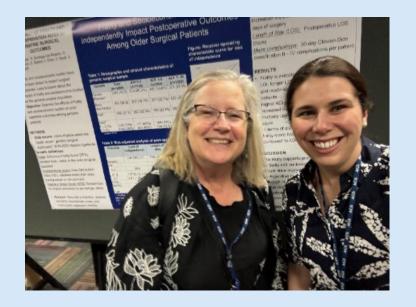
PRE-DOCTORAL

Alexa Bragg, MPH, MBA Natalie Davoodi, MPH Andrew Jopson, MPH



"One of the most helpful aspects of my mentorship experience has been the frequent and consistent contact. Regular check-ins provided ongoing guidance, kept me on track, and created space for thoughtful discussion as my ideas evolved."

Feedback from the Program's Annual
Trainee Survey



"This is the best training program I've ever participated in. I feel this T32 leadership team and peers provide me with tremendous support, particularly under the academic uncertainty and change. It is a great joy to work with my mentors and other collaborators of this T32 program."

Feedback from the Program's Annual Trainee Survey

SEMINAR

Former T32 postdoctoral trainee, Dr. Julia Burgdorf, leads the bi-weekly seminar that convenes trainees and core program faculty to discuss professional development topics including manuscript writing techniques, biosketches, authorship considerations, presentation skills, grant preparation, job search strategies, and trainee-led research in progress presentations. New offerings this year included a non-academic career panel and a mock NIH study section to simulate how grant applications are reviewed. Trainees appreciated both the diversity of practical topics and the opportunity to give and receive feedback on their work from an interdisciplinary group of peers and faculty.



"The most valuable seminar session for me was the mock NIH review. It offered a unique, behind-thescenes perspective on how proposals are evaluated and helped me better understand the criteria reviewers use. It also gave me practical insights into how to strengthen my own grant writing."

Feedback from the Program's Annual Trainee Survey

"Helped me to learn what we need to do to be successful health services research. Loved the different expert ideas/opinions from all the faculty." -Feedback from the Program's Annual Trainee Survey

PRACTICUM

The practicum provides trainees with exposure to "real world" clinical, financing and organizational aspects of health services and outcomes in the care of older adults with an emphasis on key elements of person- and family-oriented care. Dr. Mariah Robertson and Dr. Stephanie Nothelle in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, and Dr. Kali Thomas in the School of Nursing, cofacilitated the practicum this year. The four modules include home-based care, continuum of care, interdisciplinary care, and long-term services and supports. Each module throughout the year includes onsite and clinical experience in each care setting. This year, trainees benefited from new onsite experiences with Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland and CivicWorks Elder Services. Several trainees described the practicum as the highlight of their training experience this year due to the unique hands-on experience and opportunities for reflection, discussion and building community.



"The practicum provided a valuable opportunity to begin exploring potential directions for my dissertation. It helped me clarify my research interests, identify relevant data sources, and think more concretely about feasible questions to pursue."

-Feedback from the Program's Annual Trainee Survey

"Such amazing educational programming for so many reasons. The sessions have helped me to deepen my understanding of geriatrics medicine, policy, and health services delivery. The shadowing/event experiences (especially Wheels on Meals and Civic Works) have truly shaped how I approach both my research and clinical practice.

The discussions with expert faculty and our colleagues have helped me think differently and enriched my understanding."

Feedback from the Program's Annual Trainee Survey

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM TRAINEES

- Three graduating postdoctoral fellows have secured research-related positions. **Mfon Umoh** will be continuing her research and practice at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology. **Emerald Jenkins** is a Clinical Comparative Effectiveness Research Program Officer at PCORI. **Kacey Chae** has accepted a position as an Assisrtant Professor at Wake Forest University to continue research and practice of obesity medicine in older adults.
- Two postdoctoral trainees have received awards to support their research. Sarah Jabour won the 2025 Delta Omega Scholarship Competition in the applied research category for her submission, ""Barriers and Facilitators to Geriatric Surgical Pathway Implementation: Improving Surgical Care for Our Aging Population." Zhang Zhang received the Hopkins Business of Health Initiative (HBHI) Truveta Pilot Award. In addition, she won the Rising Star Award at the NIA/AGS/AGINGADACC conference on the Intersection of Multiple Chronic Conditions and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias and the AI in Aging Summit Rising Star Scholar Award.
- Aleks Wec, former predoctoral trainee in the program, was awarded the 2025 Judith Dellinger Kasper Dissertation Award for her project "Understanding Patient-Initiated Secure Messaging Intensity Among Older Adults."
- Two predoctoral trainees have successfully defended their dissertations and secured positions to further their research. **Jeff Marr** will join the faculty at Brown University as Assistant Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice. **Jenni Seale Reiff** will pursue an advanced postdoctoral fellowship in geriatrics through the Atlanta/Birmingham Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center in the fall.



"Amazing community, so grateful for this experience."

Feedback from the Program's Annual Trainee Survey





Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy in Aging and Disability