



**Northwestern
Medicine®**

Feinberg School of Medicine

10 YEAR

RETROSPECTIVE

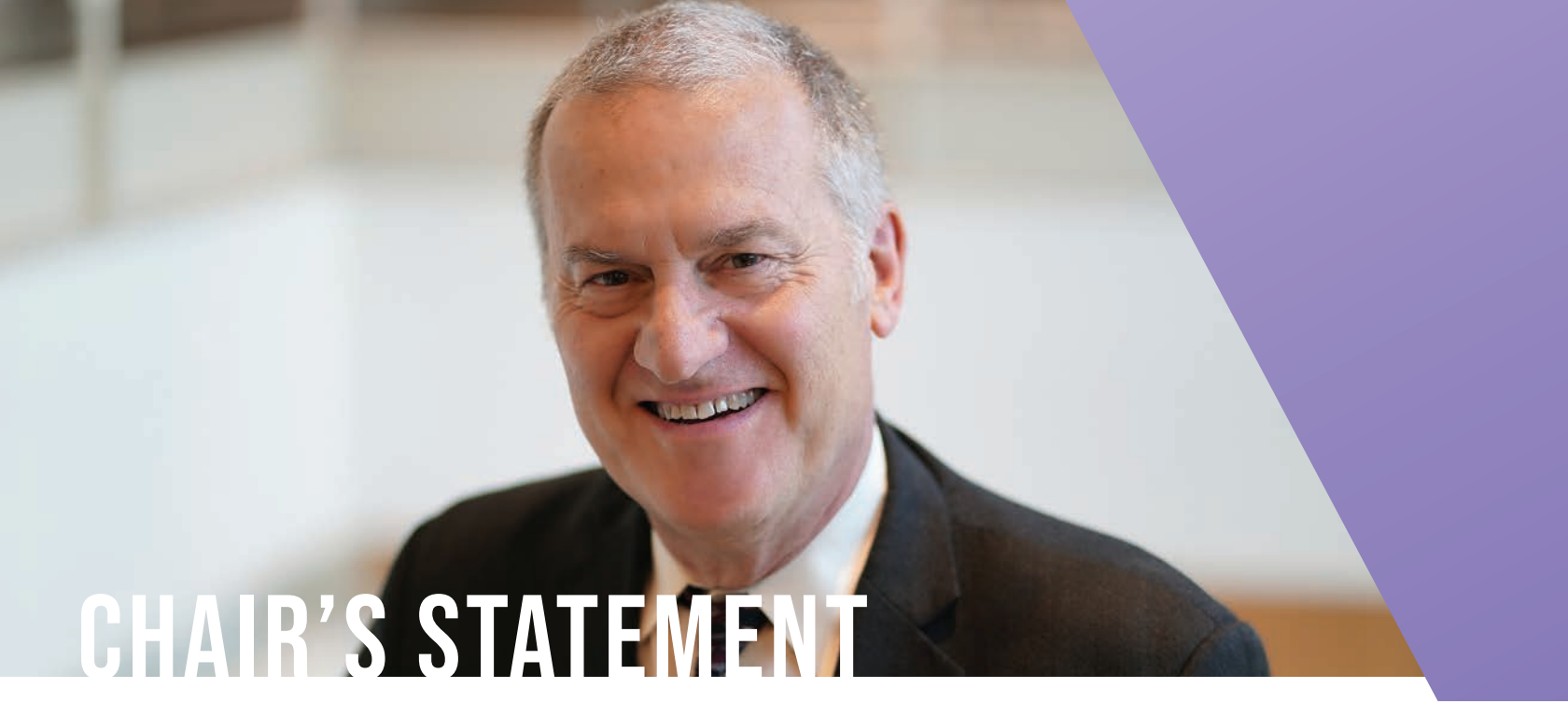
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SOCIAL SCIENCES

2019

10-Year Retrospective

Assessment Health Equity Therapy Studies
Evaluation Transdisciplinary Clinical Trials Psychometrics Implementation Education
Expansion International Data Core Quality of Life Impact
Research Measurement Collaborative
Patient-Centered Outcomes
Outcomes and Measurement Science
Interventions Mental Health
Multidisciplinary Anthropology Sociology
Analytic Methods Personality PCAR
Mechanisms of Health and Disease
Health Psychology Scientific Hubs
Biobehavioral Mechanisms
Mentorship



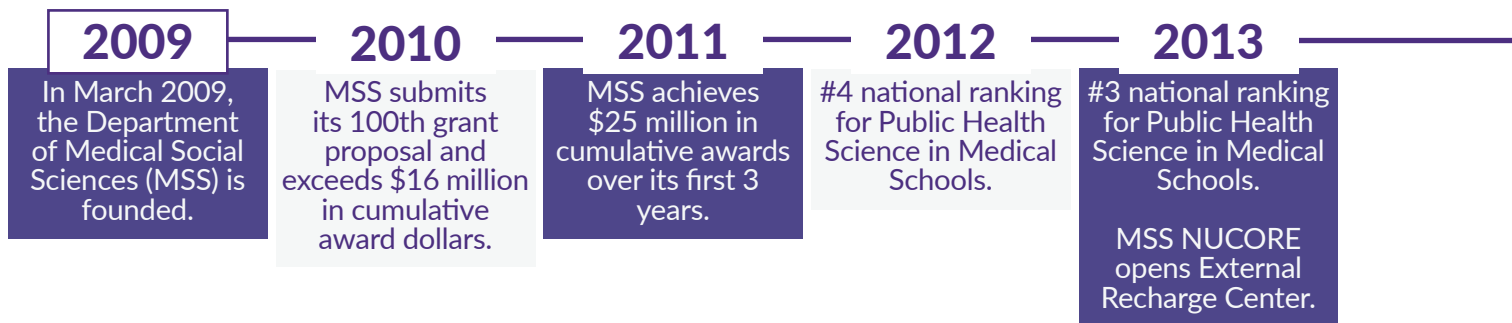


CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

A decade ago, in March, 2009, Northwestern University and the Feinberg School of Medicine brought together a team of scientists with the goal of advancing the understanding of the mechanisms and measurement of health and disease through the development of basic and applied social science research. The product of this effort was the establishment of the Department of Medical Social Sciences. In the ten years that followed, we grew from leveraging a successful and ambitious outcomes research group into a bona fide department of social scientists studying a wide range of health issues from social science disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health, and economics, to statistics and psychometrics. We aim to have significant impact on health locally and nationally, using innovative applications of basic social science principles and methods. Our senior scientists bring expertise, creativity, and leadership, and have contributed substantially to the development of our junior scientists and the evolution of the department's identity. All of this has been accomplished in only 10 years, making Medical Social Sciences a household name in our academic community. We have seen substantial growth since our doors opened, not only in our numbers but also in our scientific scope and depth.

A look into the last 10 years of supporting highly



"...diversifying our research portfolio, creating the framework..."

We have quadrupled the size of our research portfolio and our faculty has grown proportionally to more than 60. We've collaborated with virtually every department in the medical school, and several departments, schools, and institutes across Northwestern University. By diversifying our research portfolio, we've been able to expand into four Research Hubs: Health Equity, Lifespan Health Promotion, Mechanisms of Health and Disease, and Outcomes and Measurement Science. These Hubs, established in 2018, allow us to collectively cluster faculty of similar focus and establish core competencies to enable more effective coordination and collaboration of our research.

As a result, we've cultivated our interdepartmental and intradepartmental relationships as well as improved our ability to cohesively disseminate our research progress and findings. In designing their own mission and goals, each Hub has cultivated a supportive professional environment for advancement towards these goals and moreover made a profound impact in these research areas. The University's progressive approach to blazing a path in medicine and health care discovery has opened new worlds of understanding toward the improvement of health outcomes and healthcare delivery. In the next ten years, we look forward to developing new collaborations, more innovation, and even better quality medical social science. Thank you for joining us in this journey and supporting us these past ten years. Together, we'll continue to make a difference.

multidisciplinary, collaborative research efforts:

2014

MSS' 5-year anniversary marks a 200% increase in employee growth over the first 5-year period.

2015

#1 national ranking for Public Health Science in Medical Schools.

The Institute for Sexual and gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH) is founded.

2016

The Institute for Innovations in Developmental Sciences (DevSci) is founded.

2017

MSS organizes a faculty retreat to galvanize and finalize the creation of four Scientific Hubs.

2018

MSS achieves a nearly 5,000% increase in annual award dollars, increasing from \$800 thousand in annual awards in 2009 to \$42 million in 2018.

2019

MSS achieves over \$200M in cumulative award dollars, and submits its 1,000th proposal, representing nearly \$1 billion in grant proposals.

RESEARCH HUB OUTCOMES AND MEASUREMENT SCIENCE

DIRECTED BY RICHARD GERSHON, PHD & PATRICIA FRANKLIN, MD, MPH, MBA

The Outcomes and Measurement Science hub provides expertise in outcomes research, including patient reported outcomes, clinical trials, and clinical quality measurement. Over the last decade, we broadened our expertise from applied measurement science and clinical trial methodology, to improve health through clinical practice innovation and impact on regulatory and reimbursement policy. Ongoing research includes new methods to use predictive analytics based on patient reported measures to guide decisions for, and timing of, elective surgical procedures, and symptom management in chronic disease. In the future, we aim to improve the health and quality of life of people seeking treatment for a variety of health conditions through patient-centered care and policy-influencing research.



THE VOICE OF THE PATIENT IN HEALTH CARE RESEARCH AND CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

In its first decade, David Cella and many MSS researchers devoted much of their scientific effort to design, deploy, and disseminate the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System®. The NIH-funded, PROMIS® system is novel for many reasons. The core measures are psychometrically sound and can be used to assess patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and general health status across diverse clinical populations. Second, the measures are efficiently deployed using state-of-the-art computer adaptive testing (CAT) grounded in item response theory. Minimizing patient response burden facilitates adoption by researchers and clinicians. Finally, as measures are adopted in daily clinical practice, new research is identifying optimal timing, clinical context, and report formats to optimally interpret PROMIS measures in healthcare delivery. MSS researchers also developed Neuro-QOL: quality of life item banks for adults with neurological disorders, as well as numerous cancer and other disease-specific PROs for use in clinical trials. Our Assessment Center API (Application Programming Interface) makes all of these PROs available directly at 60 hospital systems and through 18 patient portal vendors. One US health system alone administered over one million PROMIS surveys last year, and dozens of other health systems are actively incorporating these measures in daily patient care.



A COMMON-PLATFORM FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL FUNCTIONING

The NIH Toolbox for Assessment of Neurological and Behavioral Function® was developed under contract to Richard Gershon and a large team of MSS researchers in order to create a standard set of royalty-free, comprehensive assessment tools of cognitive, emotion, motor and sensory functioning that for use by researchers and clinicians. Over the last 10 years, MSS has assumed responsibility for supporting, maintaining, and distributing the NIH Toolbox® to a growing user group of healthcare researchers, clinical trialists, and clinicians over 1,000 institutions worldwide. As part of the National Children's Study we ported the NIH Toolbox to the iPad to improve portability and reliability. Validation studies using NIH Toolbox measures have been published in more than 200 peer reviewed articles. At MSS, we are currently in the process of validating the NIH Toolbox measures across the age span: using the measures to assess cognitive functioning for 50,000 children and their mothers for the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program, as well as to detect Mild Cognitive Impairment and to track the course of Alzheimer's Disease. We are also at work developing a self-administered, mobile phone version of the measures.

RESEARCH HUB MECHANISMS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

DIRECTED BY LAURIE WAKSCHLAG, PHD & JOEL VOSS, PHD

Scientists in the Mechanisms of Health and Disease Hub develop new methods and technologies to combat disease and promote health from before birth to the end phases of life. The unifying theme of the Hub's work is identifying malleable mechanisms that can be targeted to accelerate discovery of innovative prevention strategies to attenuate disease processes and improve quality of life.



NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO RESCUE MEMORY DECLINE IN OLD AGE

Everyone experiences memory decline late in life and as of 2019, there are no viable treatments. Now, research in the MSS laboratory directed by Joel Voss, PhD, Co-Director of the Mechanisms of Health and Disease Hub, has delivered the first new technology to reverse memory decline in older adults. In a groundbreaking study published in the journal *Science* in 2014, Dr. Voss showed that it is possible to use noninvasive electromagnetic stimulation to improve the function of the hippocampus – a brain region crucial for memory that degrades with old age. The unique translational climate of MSS provided the optimal resources to turn this discovery into practice for older adults suffering from memory impairment. Dr. Voss's laboratory was able to use stimulation to rescue memory impairment in older adults, who performed memory tasks just as well as young people in their 20's after receiving stimulation. This research, published in a 2019 edition of the journal *Neurology*, is a new weapon in the fight against memory decline in old age and conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. This advancement that was made possible by the union of basic and applied research in the Mechanisms of Health and Disease Hub. In recognition of the transformative potential of this work, Dr. Voss was recently awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the US Government to outstanding scientists and engineers who show exceptional promise for leadership in science and technology.

NEW METHODS TO TARGET MENTAL HEALTH RISK AT THE BEGINNING OF LIFE



Mental health problems are leading causes of medical disability and have roots in early life, but early vulnerabilities for poor mental health are difficult to identify in young children. The MSS program on Developmental Mechanisms directed by Laurie Wakschlag, PhD, Co-Director of the Mechanisms of Health & Disease Hub, is widely recognized for generating a “science of when to worry” about young children’s mental health risk by providing scientifically-based indicators to determine when behavior is normal and when it is of concern. A major contribution of this program has been the generation of an innovative assessment toolkit that differentiates the normal ups and downs of early childhood (e.g. “the terrible twos”) from indicators of mental health risk, which has been validated in thousands of young children. This toolkit enables identification of mental health risk beginning in infancy, opening up powerful opportunities for prevention prior to disease onset. With this science base as foundation, Wakschlag and colleagues are setting an ambitious agenda for next stage research that will accelerate clinical translation.

As summarized in a 2018 paper in *American Journal of Psychiatry*, they are using this early life diagnostic toolkit to link early irritability to disruptions in regions of the brain that govern regulation of emotion and behavior; providing clues to the underlying neural mechanisms of developmental risk for mental health problems. Wakschlag and her colleagues have also laid out a roadmap for implementing irritability screening and targeted prevention during infancy in primary care settings for broad population impact, published in the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* in 2019. These advances draw on MSS’s pool of expertise in innovating and applying social science methods to improve children’s lifelong mental health outlooks.

“ This toolkit enables identification..... opening up powerful opportunities for prevention prior to disease onset. ”

RESEARCH HUB LIFESPAN HEALTH PROMOTION

DIRECTED BY JUDITH MOSKOWITZ, PHD & DANIEL MROCZEK, PHD

The mission of the Lifespan Health Promotion hub is to prevent and manage major health conditions through understanding of psychosocial influences on health, with the aim of reducing morbidity and early mortality for diverse individuals across the full disease spectrum and the life course.

The Hub aims to:

- Advance the understanding of psychosocial influences on health and well-being over the lifespan.
- Determine how to personalize interventions based on individual factors.
- Develop novel, evidence-based multilevel strategies to prevent and manage major health conditions and reduce morbidity and early mortality for diverse individuals across the full disease spectrum and the life course.



USING PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS TO INDIVIDUALIZE INTERVENTIONS FOR NICU PARENTS

Two of the scientists in our hub, Dan Mroczek, PhD, and Eileen Graham, PhD, drew on their personal experiences to establish a new applied research program. Both had children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Mroczek in 2006 and 2007, and Graham in 2017. Mroczek has lost 3 babies in the NICU who were extremely premature. Through these experiences, Graham and Mroczek noticed that parents deal with the major stressor of having their baby in the NICU in a variety of different ways.

This led to a new research program that is focused on using individualized psychological information about parents and harnessing it to tailor and personalize app-based interventions to help parents manage the roller coaster of life during and after a child's NICU stay. Mroczek and Graham are collaborating on this with Dr. Craig Garfield, a pediatrician who has already developed a more general parent-support app for NICU parents. This research is at an early stage, but stems from direct experiences by researchers in this hub personal experience to inform new research and improve the lives of stressed-out NICU parents.

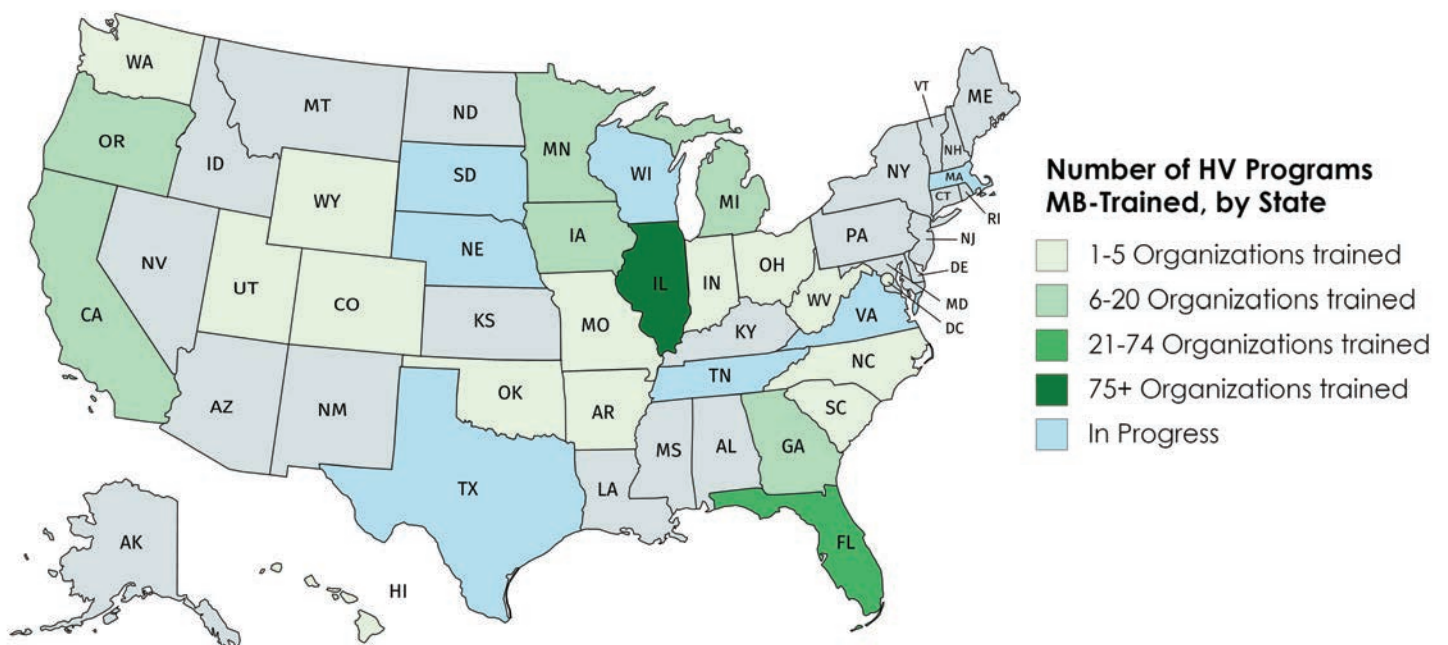


POSITIVE IMPACT OF RESEARCH

Judy Moskowitz, PhD, MPH, completed a randomized trial of a positive emotion skills intervention for dementia caregivers that resulted in significant reductions in depression and improvements in positive emotion and positive aspects of caregiving. This research was covered by NPR and a number of other outlets. Caregivers in the study noted: “[My spouse] picks up on my energy, and if my energy is positive, it’s easier to care for him”, Warehall says. She has learned to focus on what is, instead of what’s lost. “I remind myself I still have him. I can still hug him and hold him and tell him I love him.”

EXPANDING THE REACH OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTION TO PREVENT POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

Darius Tandon’s, PhD, research lab has worked over the last five years to disseminate their evidence-based postpartum depression preventive intervention program -Mothers and Babies- across the United States. Most of their dissemination efforts have focused on providing training and technical assistance to home visiting programs to guide the adoption and implementation of the intervention.



RESEARCH HUB HEALTH EQUITY

DIRECTED BY LISA HIRSCHHORN, MD, MPH & BRIAN MUSTANSKI, PHD

The mission of the Health Equity Hub is to combat inequities in health through research to understand how, where, why, and for whom they arise, and then design and test interventions to address those factors. Our work intersects social and behavioral science methods with biomedical science and implementation science to study the multilevel systems and contextual factors that influence the health and wellbeing of individuals and groups in the US and globally. MSS has multiple large and thriving health equity-focused research programs, with particular strengths in sexual and gender minorities through collaborations with the Northwestern Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH).



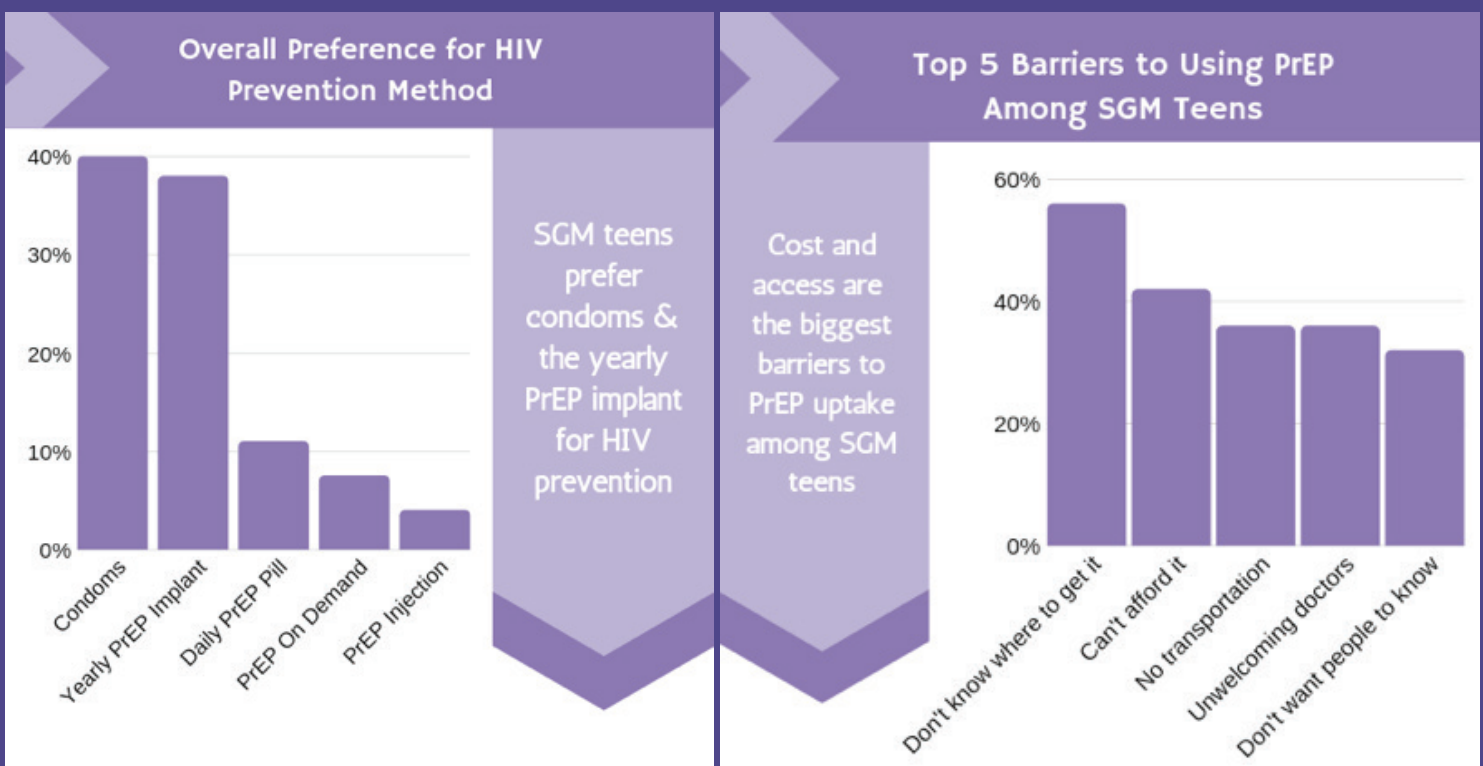
USING IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH TO UNDERSTAND HOW COUNTRIES STOPPED CHILDREN FROM DYING

Professor of Medical Social Sciences Lisa Hirschhorn, PhD, has been working with her co-PI, Agnes Binagwaho, PhD, MD, Vice Chancellor of the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, to understand how some low and middle income countries were more effective in reducing the number of children dying before their 5th birthday. In this Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Gates Ventures funded project, we developed a new implementation research framework to understand how and why countries chose, adapted, and implemented interventions proven to reduce under-5 mortality, and what contextual factors served to facilitate or challenge the implementation and overall national success. Work has been completed in Rwanda, Nepal, Senegal, and Bangladesh, with case studies for Ethiopia, Peru, and Cambodia underway. The goal is to create generalizable and actionable knowledge which other countries can use to drive towards success in saving lives through more effective implementation. Preliminary results have already been presented at the Dissemination and Implementation Science meeting in December as well as back to participating countries. It also will be available on an Exemplar website later in 2019 as well as through reports and peer-reviewed publications.

USING GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER TEENS' PERSPECTIVES TO GUIDE ADOLESCENT HIV PREVENTION

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a highly effective, once-daily HIV prevention medication approved in the US for adults in 2012 and for adolescents in 2018. Gay and bisexual teenage boys and transgender girls are at higher risk of HIV and experience unique barriers to PrEP related to their age and sexual and gender minority (SGM) identity. Kathryn Macapagal, PhD, research assistant professor of medical social sciences, led among some of the first studies to provide insight into SGM adolescents' awareness, knowledge, and attitudes toward daily PrEP and forms of PrEP in clinical trials (e.g., shot, implant).

This work found that SGM adolescents primarily learn about PrEP through the internet, social media, and dating apps rather than through parents, school, or healthcare providers. While SGM adolescents show only moderate awareness of PrEP, they still desire information to help navigate access barriers (e.g., cost, seeking care independently, whether parents can detect it). Adolescents preferred longer acting implants over oral and injectable PrEP for their convenience and ease of adherence. PrEP implants were ranked similarly to condoms, which are inexpensive and easier to access. These findings can help improve PrEP uptake and adherence among SGM adolescents, and ultimately reduce the impact of HIV and contribute to efforts to finally end the domestic HIV epidemic.



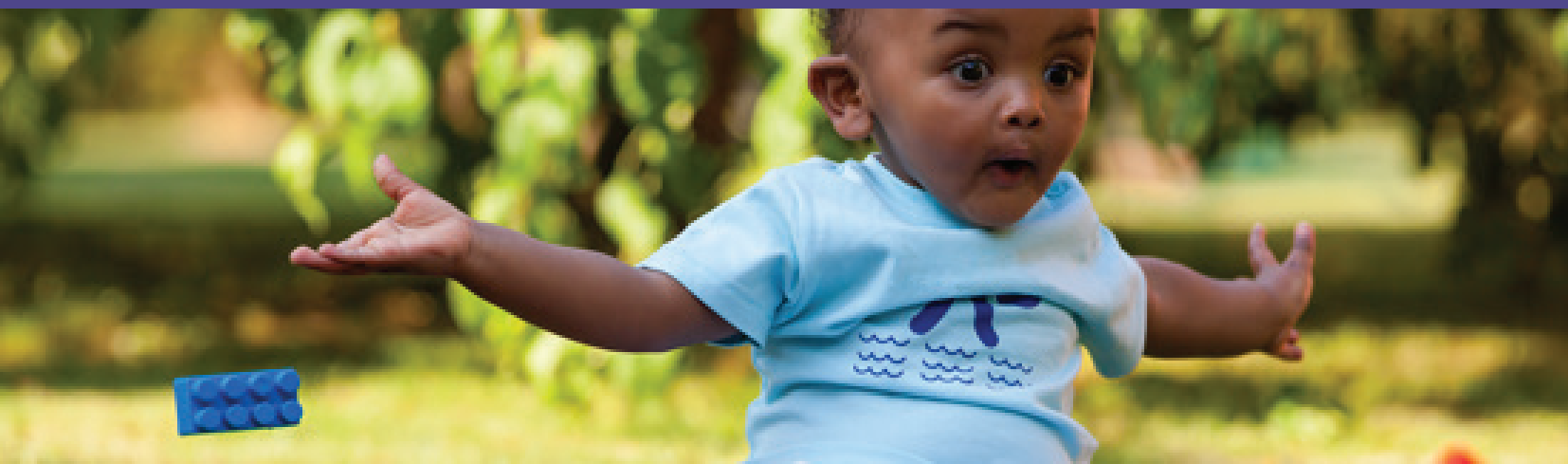
OUR INSTITUTES

THE INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATIONS IN DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCES (DEVSCI)



The Institute for Innovations in Developmental Sciences (DevSci) deepens MSS' mission of bridging social:biomedical sciences to improve health, within the developmental sciences. Established in 2016, DevSci was founded and is led by MSS faculty Laurie Wakschlag. DevSci's "healthier, earlier" mission has galvanized cross-school engagement including Feinberg School of Medicine, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, School of Communication, School of Education and Social Policy, McCormick School of Engineering, and its healthcare affiliates, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, and Northwestern Medicine. DevSci aims to motivate and lead transformative science to engender a "healthier, earlier" population –beginning even before birth– towards improving lifelong health and developmental outlooks.

Its partnership with Lurie Children's is unique in the nation as a major engine of clinical:scientific partnerships to improve pediatric health. A capstone is a new multi-million dollar healthier, earlier initiative to be funded by the Patrick G. & Shirley W. Ryan Foundation towards detection and prevention of neuromotor delays beginning at birth in a novel partnership of Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, Lurie Children's, the Center for Bio-Integrated Electronics, and DevSci. DevSci is extremely grateful to MSS for serving as its supportive and enabling academic home.





THE INSTITUTE FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING (ISGMH)

The Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH) has been a key partner to MSS in advancing its mission of to combat inequities in health in the SGM community by supporting research to understand how, where, why they arise and then designing and testing interventions to address those factors.

ISGMH was founded in 2015 and is the first university-wide institute in the country focused exclusively on research to improve the health of the sexual and gender minority (SGM) community. ISGMH grew from MSS faculty member and institute director Dr. Brian Mustanski's MSS-based IMPACT LGBT Health and Development Program, which was conducting state-of-the art translational research with SGM youth populations since 2008. As a university-wide institute based in the Northwestern Office of Research, ISGMH's mission is to connect scholars from numerous disciplines with the SGM community to forge collaborations and stimulate innovative research to improve SGM health and wellbeing. ISGMH has catalyzed SGM health research for its 40 plus faculty members in the Feinberg School of Medicine, Medill School of Journalism, School of Communications, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of Education and Social Policy. The institute provides unique opportunities for research and training for the next generation of SGM scholars. The institute utilizes innovative modalities to disseminate knowledge widely to the SGM community, the public at large, scholars, service providers, educators, and policymakers.



EDUCATION INITIATIVES

MSS faculty are involved in education efforts that span initiatives for undergraduates to early career researchers. At the undergraduate level, our faculty serve as mentors for students in the Summer Research Opportunities Program, CURE, Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing internships, and the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine internships, as well as independent research studies.

Our faculty members contribute to graduate education through several PhD programs. MSS faculty direct the Social Sciences and Health (SSH) track, one of four in the Health Sciences Integrated PhD (HSIP) program. The mission of the SSH track is to prepare its graduates for scholarly and research careers in the four thematic aspects of MSS - outcomes and measurement science, mechanisms of health and disease, lifespan health promotion, and health equity. Since the track inception in 2013, four graduate students have matriculated in the Social Sciences and Health track and we will award our first PhD in the track to Sarah Bassett in the fall of 2019. In addition, MSS faculty have served as primary mentors to more than a dozen graduate students in the Feinberg clinical psychology graduate program, the department of psychology, and the Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience (NUIN) program.



In the past decade, 6 postdoctoral fellows have been awarded a spot on an NCI T32 training grant and 7 have received individual postdoctoral training awards. Visit our Postdoctoral Fellows page for information about our current fellows and their work.

Finally, our faculty members participate in classroom teaching and research training at Feinberg, as well as professional and public education efforts locally, nationally and internationally. For example, we contribute to the broader world of social science research and education through instructional webinars such as the following educational sessions available online: “Conceptual Introduction to Item Response Theory” by Karon F. Cook, PhD, and “PROMIS Webinar” by Nan Rothrock, PhD.

PUBLICATIONS



1,734

Total
Publications



36,610

Citations
Generated

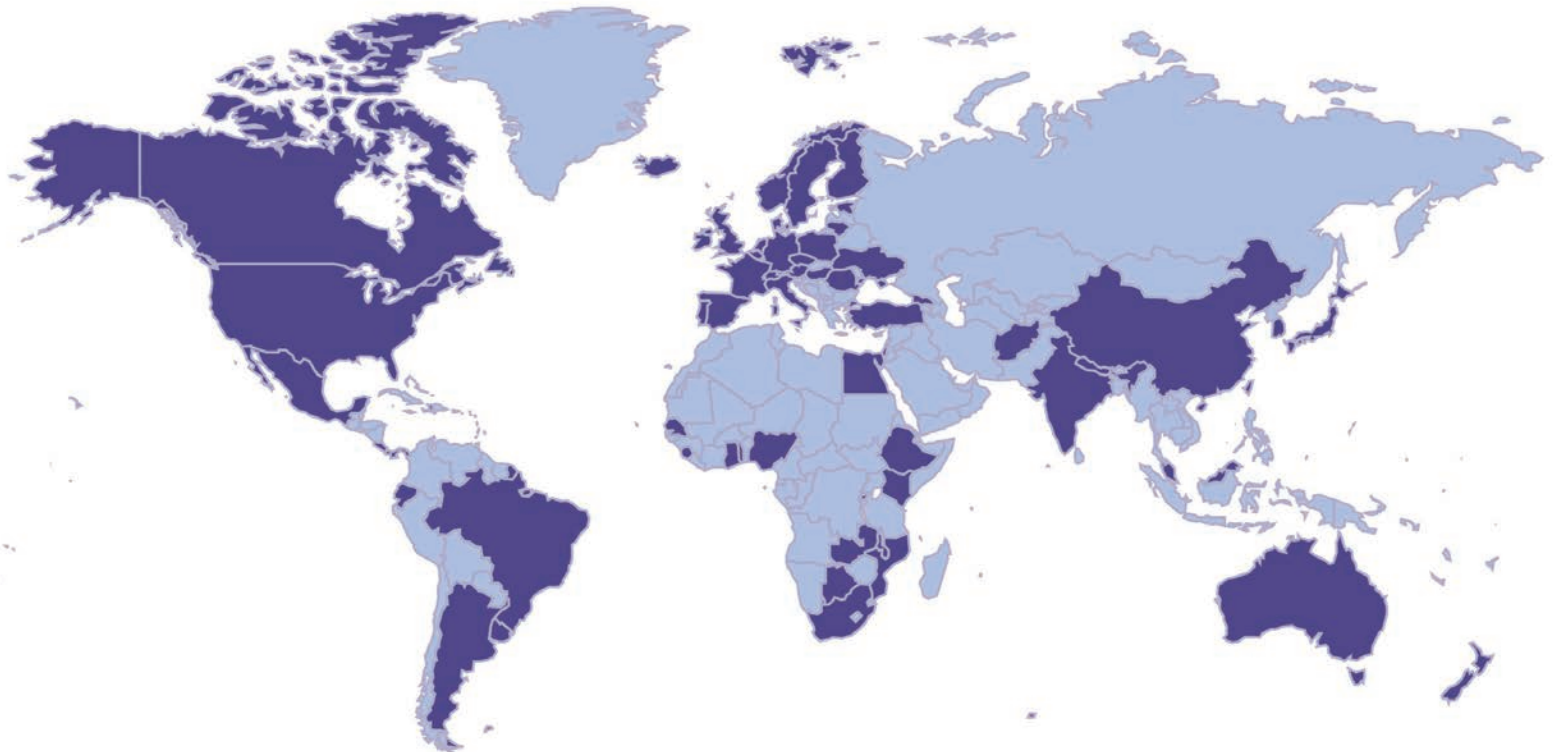


158

Partner
Institutions



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



World Map represents the number of documents with author affiliations from international locations. Countries in dark purple represents a greater concentration of documents with author affiliations.

WHO WE ARE & HOW WE'VE GROWN



EMPLOYMENT

OVER
300%
INCREASE IN
FACULTY



after starting with **16** faculty in 2009, MSS is now home to more than **60** faculty researchers.

OVER
400%
INCREASE IN
STAFF



after starting with **30** staff in 2009, MSS now employs over **170** research and administrative staff.

15
POSTDOCS
TRAINED ANNUALLY



after bringing on the first postdoctoral trainee in 2010, MSS now trains **15** postdocs annually.



RESEARCH METRICS

NEARLY
200%
INCREASE

in number of grant applications submitted annually.

SUBMITTED
OVER
1,000
GRANT
APPLICATIONS

totalling nearly **\$1 billion** in proposed grant funding.

NEARLY
400%
INCREASE

in dollar amount of annual proposal submissions.

OVER
\$40 MILLION
IN AWARDS IN 2019



OVER
\$200 MILLION
AWARDED IN TEN YEARS

#1 NATIONAL RANKING
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS
FOR THE 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR



Elizabeth Addington, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Addington is a health psychologist specializing in research and clinical practice that aim to improve the wellbeing of adults facing cancer or other chronic illnesses. Her research focuses on improving people's ability to manage health-related stress, increase their positive psychosocial experiences, and improve their physical health and quality of life through mind-body approaches such as yoga, as well as techniques based in positive and health psychology. In addition, she is a licensed clinical psychologist and member of Supportive Oncology, providing therapy to adults with cancer and their caregivers.



Michael Bass, MS
Research Assistant Professor

Mr. Bass provides programming and strategic leadership in technical matters related to information systems integration to a diverse group of researchers. He has significant experience in web-based applications; as well as other electronic data captures methods. He has continuously provided a software infrastructure that enables medical research to take place in the face of rapidly changing technologies. This includes embracing the emergence of mHealth and Big Data enabled by research projects operationalized within Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems.



Lauren Beach, JD, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Beach is an interdisciplinary sexual and gender minority (SGM) health researcher who has expertise in minority stress theory, community engagement, the measurement of sexual orientation and gender identity, and SGM health policy. Dr. Beach investigates the epidemiology of chronic physical health conditions over the life course among SGM populations and people living with HIV (PLWH). She also studies how stigma affects healthcare quality, chronic condition management, and health outcomes of marginalized populations. Dr. Beach holds a K12 award from the Third Coast Center for AIDS Research to investigate social and biological mechanisms contributing to heart failure among PLWH.



Michelle Birkett, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Birkett's research uses network and quantitative methodologies to understand the social contextual influence of stigma on the health and well-being of marginalized populations and, in particular, sexual and gender minority youth. Dr. Birkett leads multiple NIH-funded projects, including a Career Development Award focused on understanding network, multilevel, and contextual influences on racial disparities in HIV within young men who have sex with men (K08 DA037825). She also leads Network Canvas -- a software development R01 that simplifies the collection and streamlines the management of social network data, thereby allowing investigators to assess more nuanced associations between social contextual factors and disease.

FACULTY BIOS



Courtney Blackwell, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Blackwell studies the developmental trajectories of well-being and has expertise in the development and validation of early childhood Person Reported Outcomes (PROs) and performance assessments. Of particular interest is investigating how foundational social-emotional and relational health influences well-being and ascertaining additional risk and promotive factors in the home and school environment. Dr. Blackwell is also a faculty affiliate of the Northwestern Institute for Innovations in Developmental Sciences (DevSci), where she leads the inaugural DevSci national parent survey to evaluate attitudes, experiences, and perspectives on high-impact, policy-relevant early childhood health and development issues.



Zeeshan Butt, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Butt is a licensed clinical psychologist. In his clinical role, he provides psychological evaluation and treatment at Northwestern's Comprehensive Transplant Center. His research is focused on the development and application of patient-reported outcomes for improved care quality. He serves as the Associate Director of the Center for Patient-Centered Outcomes and Director of the Outcomes Measurement and Survey Core at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. Among his professional service roles, Dr. Butt is President of the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers and President of the Society for Health Psychology. For more info, please visit www.zeeshanbutt.com.



Dave Cella, PhD
Ralph Seal Paffenbarger Professor

Dr. Cella is The Ralph Seal Paffenbarger Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Social Sciences. He led the steady and rapid growth of the department from its inception in 2009, more than quadrupling its size in the first ten years. Dr. Cella's research portfolio extends from health outcomes measurement and applications to clinical trials, comparative effectiveness, and learning health system implementation. The driving motivation of Dr. Cella's work has been to bring the voice and perspective of the patient to research study design and the assessment of treatment values and preferences. He is careful to ensure that measurement is sensitive to diverse populations, including low literacy and underserved populations, and developmentally-sensitive measurement across the lifespan. As an expert in applied health status measurement, he has led the development and validation of the FACIT Measurement System, PROMIS, Neuro-QoL, and the emotional health domain of the NIH Toolbox. These measurement systems are used around the world by thousands, in clinical practice and research. They are also used here at home, in innovative patient-centered projects that are redesigning the way care is delivered at Northwestern Medicine.



Elaine Cheung, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Cheung's research investigates the factors that promote psychological adjustment and empathy in the context of stress, as well as the development and implementation of psychosocial interventions for people coping with serious life stress. Her current research program centers on the following four areas: 1) how positive psychological interventions can buffer stress across a range of life stressors, 2) the predictors and consequences of stress-related growth in couples after a major life event, 3) how people structure and navigate their social networks for emotion regulation, and 4) the development of burnout prevention interventions for physicians and medical trainees.



Anna Chorniy, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Chorniy is a health economist. Her research interests are empirical in nature and could be broadly divided into two major categories: (1) child health; and (2) competition in health care markets. More specifically, she studies the impact of public health insurance programs on children's health and wellbeing, physician agency and treatment choices, the relationship between health insurance and labor market outcomes, and industrial organization of health care markets. In her work, she investigated the effects of ADHD medication on children's short- and long-term outcomes as well as the reasons behind the skyrocketing ADHD diagnoses.



Rachel Flynn, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Flynn is a developmental psychologist with training in clinical psychology and experience in administration and management of large scale projects and grants. Dr. Flynn's scholarly research centers on the contexts that can improve children's self-regulation and learning and often uses media and technology as the tool for intervention. A particular focus of her research has been on how media can promote self-regulation as the basis for improvement in health behaviors and cognition. She uses neurodevelopmental methods such as behavior and observation assessments and eye-tracking to identify mechanisms and outcomes that underlie children's health functioning.



Rina Fox, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Fox is a licensed clinical psychologist whose research is broadly focused on delineating how psychosocial processes impact adjustment to and coping with chronic illness, with an emphasis on symptom management and health related quality of life (HRQOL). She is also interested in better understanding the chronobiological mechanisms underlying symptom burden, as well as addressing health disparities experienced by underrepresented groups with chronic illnesses. More recently, her work has focused on exploring applications of patient reported and performance-based outcome measures housed within the HealthMeasures suite in diverse populations.

FACULTY BIOS



Patricia Franklin, MD, MPH, MBA
Professor

Dr. Franklin joined Medical Social Sciences in January 2019 to expand implementation research using patient-reported outcome measures (e.g., PROMIS) and other patient-generated data. She has over two decades of experience in quality and outcomes research that embodies learning health system principles. She leads the Function and Outcomes Research for Comparative Effectiveness in total joint replacement registry (FORCE-TJR), a national cohort of 30,000 TJR patients from 200 orthopedists in 28 states. One PCORI-funded study translates the FORCE-TJR PRO and clinical data to individual outcome predictions to generate shared decision reports for knee and hip arthritis patients. Other research programs Franklin is involved in evaluates optimal physical therapy (NIAMS) and opioid use (NIAMS) in post-TJR care.



Sofia Garcia, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Garcia is a licensed clinical psychologist whose research focuses on patient-reported outcome measures and patient-centered care initiatives, including those that incorporate health information technology and are tailored to vulnerable populations. She has served as principal investigator of nine, and scientific project director of five, cancer control and survivorship studies. More recently, her work has included implementation of health care system-wide initiatives. Dr. Garcia is Director of Clinical Research for the Cancer Survivorship Institute of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center (RHLCCC). In her clinical role, she provides psychological treatment and evaluation through the RHLCCC Supportive Oncology Program.



Richard Gershon, PhD
Professor and Vice Chair for Research

Dr. Gershon directed a team of 235 researchers to create the NIH Toolbox for the Assessment of Neurological and Behavioral Function--a standard set of royalty-free, comprehensive assessment tools of cognitive, emotion, motor and sensory functioning for use by researchers and clinicians. He oversees validation efforts for the NIH Toolbox for use in diverse populations ranging from young children with intellectual disabilities, to predicting the onset of mild cognitive impairment. He also oversees distribution and scoring technology of the Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS), now available at hundreds of hospitals worldwide.



Craig Garfield, PhD
Professor

Dr. Garfield is a Professor of Pediatrics and of Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He is also an attending physician at the Lurie Children's Hospital (LCH) of Chicago where he is the Director of Research for the Division of Hospital Medicine and co-Director of the PHM Fellowship at LCH. His work focuses on child health within the context of the family, with particular emphasis on the social determinants of health, the role of fathers and special attention to the ability of technology to support parenting.



Andrea Graham, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Graham's program of research focuses on designing, testing, and implementing digital screening and intervention technologies, primarily for eating disorders and obesity. She currently is the Principal Investigator of a NIH-funded study to design and test a mobile intervention to help adults lose weight and manage binge eating. She also is interested in understanding issues such as the costs of treatment that impact adoption of interventions in practice, and in training providers to deliver evidence-based interventions for mental and behavioral health problems.



Eileen Graham, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Graham is a developmental psychologist, and studies midlife psychosocial processes that influence later life cognitive and physical health outcomes. She is interested in personality development over the adult lifespan, and how personality is associated with engagement in healthy behaviors that influence the onset of chronic conditions, cognitive decline, dementia, and mortality. She takes a multi-study approach to her research, applying coordinated integrative data analysis and meta-analysis to her projects, in order to enhance robustness and scientific rigor, and address the replicability and generalizability of her results.



George Greene, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Greene's program engages with community stakeholders, particularly in racial and ethnic minority communities, to understand and measure health status and health risks, and to develop, implement, and evaluate health interventions. Current projects include the evaluation of healthcare access, service utilization, and client outcomes across local HIV service organizations, the development and evaluation of a community-level intervention to promote community engagement in clinical research, and the development of proposals for the FDA's Drug Development Tool qualification process with the Northwestern University Center on Outcomes Research and Education (NUCORE) group.

FACULTY BIOS



James Griffith, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Griffith's lab is focused on enhancing clinical assessment and treatment. One of the foci of the lab is better healthcare across levels of health literacy. Along these lines, the lab is investigating the impact of health literacy on dementia screening as well as self-report assessment of health-related quality of life. We are also conducting clinical trials of adapted cognitive behavior therapy across diverse levels of health literacy. With a combination of NIH and other funds, another theme of the lab is investigating mechanisms and treatments within patients with urological symptoms. We approach this work from a biopsychosocial perspective, which includes basic science as well as clinical trials of behavioral interventions. All three current PhD students have their own funded projects, making the lab an enriching environment for training clinical researchers.



Elizabeth Hahn, MA
Associate Professor

Ms. Hahn is a medical sociologist with expertise in patient-centered outcomes research, with a focus on underserved populations and health disparities. This includes patient-reported outcomes in chronic illness, health literacy, and the design and use of novel health information technology. She has a community-academic partnership with Universidad Popular focused on developing a sustainable community program to improve health literacy and health outcomes among Spanish-speaking Latino community members in Chicago.



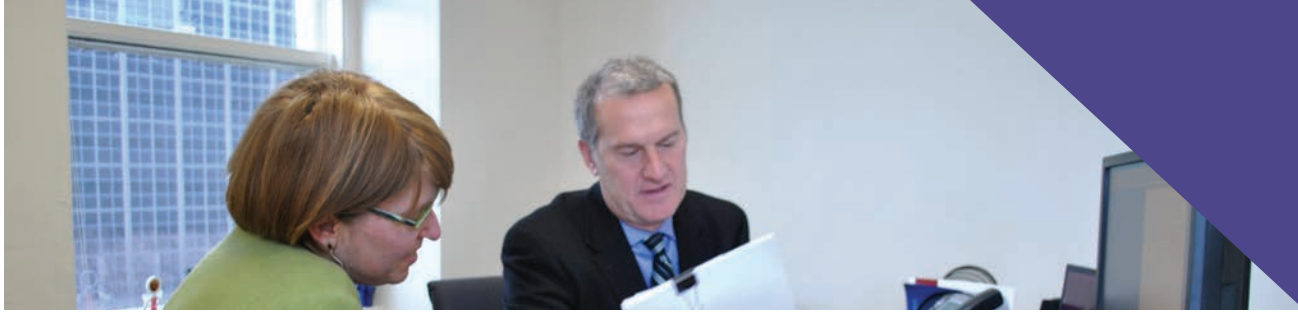
Katherina Hauner, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Hauner's research aims to examine affective processing and emotional regulation in patients with neurological and psychiatric disorders. To address these objectives, she studies functioning in both healthy participants as well as clinical populations, and combines a patient-centered approach to a variety of neurocognitive methods, including structural and functional neuroimaging, psychophysiological measurement, and non-invasive neurostimulation (e.g., tDCS, TMS). The long-term goal of Dr. Hauner's research is to make impactful contributions towards our understanding of cognitive-emotional dysfunction, as well as to develop novel, biologically-motivated treatments with the potential for meaningful improvement in patients' lives.



Lisa Hirschhorn, MD, MPH
Professor

Dr. Hirschhorn studies the application of implementation and improvement science to bridge the gaps between evidence and implementation in Chicagoland globally. She has led system level interventions and implementation research in the US, Africa and the Caribbean how to study the most effective approaches to improve quality and overall health care delivery in HIV, chronic disease and maternal health. Recent and ongoing research includes understanding how selected countries have reduced childhood death, PrEP uptake among women of color in Chicago, improving hypertension management in Nigeria and primary health care in low and middle income settings, shared healthcare decision making at Northwestern Medicine and co-PI for an NIH funded PCOR capacity building grant in Tanzania. She serves as co-chair for the Equity Hub in MSS, AOSC leader and co-chair for the Women Faculty Organization at FSM.



Julie Hook, PhD, MBA
Research Associate Professor

Dr. Hook is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist (ABPP) specializing in the development and distribution of neurobehavioral tests. She has experience and interest in combining innovative technologies to assist in neurological/ psychiatric diagnosis and treatment. As the NIH Toolbox and Apps Product Manager, she contributes to NIH Toolbox grants, and manages its product roadmap and marketing efforts. She also oversees the HealthMeasures help desk and NIH Toolbox training.



Patrick Janulis, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Janulis is a quantitative methodologist whose research focuses on the use of social network analysis and data science approaches to better understand sexually transmitted infections, drug use, and sexual and gender minority health. This work includes a focus on improving the measurement of sexual networks and optimizing analytic approaches to leverage this information for preventive interventions. For example, his recent work utilizes machine learning to more accurately estimate the structure of sexual networks and leverages these estimates to better inform epidemic models of HIV.



Sally Jensen, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Jensen is a trained clinical health psychologist, whose research centers around biopsychosocial relationships in the context of medical illness and treatment. She has served as the principal investigator on several foundation-funded studies, and the co-investigator on several federally-funded studies to develop and apply patient-reported outcomes in a variety of surgical populations. Her research currently centers around the development and application of patient-reported outcome measures in limb loss, traumatic facial injury, cancer, urinary conditions, reconstructive transplant, and women's health.



Rebecca Johnson, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Johnson is a social gerontologist whose research focuses on social and economic factors impacting health, wellbeing and quality of life of older adults. She partnered with the City of Chicago on the age-friendly assessment and is currently evaluating a city-wide initiative to support older adults with dementia and their caregivers. Dr. Johnson supports faith-based communities interested in engaging with research, providing education about community health assessments and asset mapping. Current work includes a collaborative partnership engaging community media to disseminate research evidence to communities experiencing health disparities.

FACULTY BIOS



Aaron Kaat, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Kaat is a skilled psychometrician with a background in typical and atypical child development, in particular intellectual, and developmental disorders (I/DD). His research program relates to measure development, adaptation, and validation in special populations. He is particularly interested in multiple-group item response theory (IRT), where the special populations may have a different distributional form than in the reference—i.e., general—population. At Northwestern, Dr. Kaat has emphasized psychometrics related to the instruments within the HealthMeasures suite (i.e. the NIH Toolbox, PROMIS, PROMIS Pediatric, Neuro-QoL, and ASCQ-Me).



Karen Kaiser, PhD
Research Associate Professor

Dr. Kaiser's research focuses on patient understandings of disease, treatment decision making, and patient reported outcome measure development. She is particularly interested in breast cancer patient surgical decision making and women's understandings of their risk of future cancer. She has extensive training and experience in qualitative research methods. Her work has been funded by industry, the American Cancer Society, the Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center, and the National Cancer Institute.



Michael Kallen, PhD, MPH
Research Associate Professor

Dr. Kallen is a psychometric scientist whose research is focused on developing, adapting, evaluating, and interpreting health-related measures. Dr. Kallen also has expertise in behavioral modeling health and quality of life-related outcomes. His interests include: differential item functioning (DIF) impact analyses; IRT- and observed-score-based measure linking; information-based reliability for short form development; emerging methods for estimating patient reported outcome change thresholds; latent growth curve and class analysis for longitudinal data. Dr. Kallen enjoys collaborating on "measurement-methods-technology" projects.



Sheila Krogh-Jespersen, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Krogh-Jespersen is a developmental psychologist whose overarching interest is the early emergence of social competence skills, with a specific focus on intentional understanding during the first years of life. She utilizes behavioral and eye-tracking methodologies due to inherent limits in infants' motor abilities to explore infants' early reasoning about social information. She also has expertise eye-tracking adult participants both in lab environments and "in the wild" as adults explore learning spaces, including the Museum of Science and Industry, the Lincoln Park Zoo, and the Shedd Aquarium specifically examining what aspects of visual attention are associated with awe and learning.



Erica LaForte, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. LaForte is an applied researcher specializing in clinical test development and psychometrics. Her primary research interests focus on the development and validation of tools for the measurement of human cognitive abilities and academic achievement. Much of her work has focused on the application of the Rasch family of measurement models to the development and interpretive frameworks of these tests. She has a particular interest in making assessment results relevant and useful to a wide range of stakeholders, and designing assessments that will help psychology and education professionals improve the lives of those they serve.



Jin-Shei Lai, PhD, OTR/L
Professor

Dr. Lai is a registered occupational therapist and a trained psychometrician. Dr. Lai has significant research experiences in quality of life, measurement, symptom monitoring and late effect due to childhood cancer and/or its treatment in chronic illness for both pediatric and adult populations. Dr. Lai is recognized as an expert in both outcomes measurement and Item Response Theory (IRT) and is the lead developer of the pediatric Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness scales, including Childhood Brain Tumor Survivor, Fatigue, Anorexia and Cachexia, and Cognition. She has been integral in the development of item banks using IRT to measure perceived cognitive function and fatigue for both children and adults with chronic conditions for NIH PROMIS and NINDS Neuro-QoL measurement systems. Dr. Lai has published more than 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts.



Emily Lattie, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Lattie was trained as a clinical health psychologist, and focuses on the development and evaluation of technology-enabled mental health services for stress management, depression and anxiety delivered via mobile app or website, as part of the Center for Behavioral Intervention Technologies. She is particularly interested in adapting these services to subpopulations with access barriers and in examining the contexts in which these programs can be implemented. Current work includes a federally funded project aimed at developing and deploying mobile tools to support university student mental health. Dr. Lattie also provides consultation and expertise regarding the role of human support in technology-enabled services.



Kathryn Macapagal, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Macapagal was trained as a clinical health psychologist and studies sexual health and HIV prevention in sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth. Her work uses multimedia and technology-based research methods to reach youth where they are. She is a co-investigator on multiple NIH-funded studies of innovative HIV prevention programs for adolescent and young adult men who have sex with men, and she has led projects examining hookup and dating app use and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among SGM adolescents.

FACULTY BIOS



Patricia Moreno, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Moreno's research broadly focuses on quality of life in cancer survivors. Her overarching goal is to develop an interdisciplinary program of research that improves our understanding of the significant challenges faced by individuals coping with cancer and informs our ability to support individuals across the cancer continuum through patient-centered healthcare delivery and tailored, empirically-supported interventions. She is particularly interested in addressing health disparities among Hispanics/Latinos and other underrepresented, underserved cancer survivors. She has received support from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Cancer Institute, John Templeton Foundation, American Cancer Society, and American Psychosomatic Society.



David Moskowitz, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Moskowitz is an HIV behavioral researcher looking at risk-taking behavior in adolescent men who have sex with men. He also researches sexual health communication between parents and teens, particularly as it is relevant to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis. Previous research interests of his include penetrative orientations in gay/bisexual men, sexual minority subcultures, and HPV/anal cancer prevention.



Judith Moskowitz, PhD
Professor

Dr. Moskowitz is a social psychologist, whose current research is focused on the adaptive role of positive emotion for support of beneficial health behaviors (such as engagement in care, adherence, diet and physical activity) and prevention of maladaptive health behaviors (such as substance abuse.) Using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, she examines the unique adaptive role of positive emotion in the process of coping with various types of health-related and other life stress and, through randomized trials, determines whether a positive emotion regulation intervention developed by her team can increase positive affect, reduce stress and depression, and improve health behaviors in at risk samples. She has received funding from NIA, NIMH, NCCIH, NIDA, and NINR to conduct tests of the positive emotion regulation intervention in people coping with various types of health-related stress using in person, remote, and self-guided versions of the intervention.



Dan Mroczek, PhD
Professor

Dr. Mroczek is trained in developmental, personality, and health psychology, as well as in quantitative methods. He holds a dual appointment at Northwestern University between the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences, where he is Professor of Psychology, and the Feinberg School of Medicine, where he is Professor of Medical Social Sciences. The author of nearly 100 journal articles and chapters, Mroczek's research has focused primarily on how personality traits influence mortality risk, substance abuse, chronic disease, work cutbacks due to health, and other physical health outcomes. He has expertise in several statistical and methodological areas, including multilevel models, survival analysis, longitudinal design, and psychometrics. His recent work has moved toward applying his prior research to health care settings, using individual differences data to optimize health and treatment plans.



Brian Mustanski, PhD
Professor

Dr. Mustanski's research focuses on the health and development of LGBTQ youth and the application of new media and technology to sexual health promotion and HIV prevention. He has been a Principal Investigator of grants from multiple NIH institutes that have focused on epidemiology, eHealth intervention trials, and implementation science. He has published over 235 journal articles, and is a frequent advisor to federal agencies on LGBTQ health and HIV prevention, including serving as an appointed member of the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities.



Michael Newcomb, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Newcomb is a clinical health psychologist who studies health disparities in LGBTQ youth, particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS, substance use, and mental health. His work emphasizes the interpersonal contexts that influence health, including romantic relationships and families. Dr. Newcomb is PI of multiple grants from the National Institutes of Health, including two randomized controlled trials of a relationship education and HIV prevention program for young male couples. He is also an expert in the design of longitudinal methods, including cohort studies and ecological momentary assessment, and is PI or Co-I on multiple projects using these methods.



Cindy Nowinski, MD, PhD
Research Associate Professor

Dr. Nowinski is a licensed clinical psychologist whose research focuses on patient reported outcome and performance-based measure development, evaluating the impact of chronic diseases (particularly neurological) and their treatments on patient-reported and clinical outcomes, and using technology to improve assessment. Recent interests include the use of outcome measures in clinical settings and in healthcare quality assessment.



Timothy Pearman, PhD, ABPP
Professor

Dr. Pearman is a board certified clinical health psychologist. He is a Professor in the departments of Medical Social Sciences and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, a fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Health Psychology (ACHP), and the director of the supportive oncology program at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Pearman has served on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Health Disparities and Equity Promotion (HDEP) subcommittee, as well as the National Cancer Institute (NCI)'s Subcommittee G (Education). He served on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)'s distress management expert panel. He is the disease section leader for quality of life for the Scientific Review Committee of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is a member of the Institute for Public Health and Medicine at Northwestern University, and is a member of the Northwestern Medicine Cancer Committee.

FACULTY BIOS



John Peipert, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Peipert's work covers a range of applications and methodological issues around patient reported outcomes (PROs). As the quantitative lead of MSS's Northwestern University Center on Outcomes Research and Education (NUCORE), he focuses extensively on the use of PROs in patient-focused drug development. In addition, he works on integrating PROs into routine clinical monitoring to support and enhance shared treatment decision-making. His work in these areas involves multiple chronic disease populations and spans the life course from pediatrics to older adults.



Amelie Petitclerc, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Petitclerc is a developmental and clinical psychologist with postdoctoral training in econometrics. Her research bridges child development and social policy, and focuses on two major goals. The first goal is to understand how antisocial behavior (i.e., aggression, disregard for rules, delinquency, crime) develops from early childhood, how it gets passed on - or does not get passed on - within families, and how it can be prevented. The second goal is to understand the role of income and poverty in children's development and to test the effects of preventive family intervention, income policy, and family policy, on children's development.



Gregory Phillips II, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Phillips has worked on multiple large, national research projects focused on understanding the social dynamics of HIV risk and transmission among racial/ethnic minority men who have sex with men and transgender women over the course of his career. He currently serves as Director of the Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) research program, which bridges both local and national health surveillance and evaluation projects. Dr. Phillips' ongoing work includes an expanding partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health to evaluate and provide capacity building and technical assistance services to Chicago-based community organizations implementing innovative programming to address the HIV epidemic in underserved communities, as well as a national project applying data from the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey to document the current and evolving state of health equity and inequity among sexual and gender minority adolescents.



Christine Rini, PhD
Professor

Dr. Rini is a social/health psychologist studying factors affecting adjustment to health-related challenges, especially among cancer survivors. Dr. Rini joined Northwestern University in 2019 as a Professor of Medical Social Sciences, Program Leader for Cancer Control and Survivorship, and Director of the Cancer Survivorship Institute at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her research examines the interplay of interpersonal and individual-level influences on behavioral and psychosocial outcomes. She also develops interventions, including an automated, web-based pain coping skills training program for managing persistent pain and an "expressive helping" cancer survivorship intervention that uses structured writing exercises to engage therapeutic benefits of cognitive processing and providing peer support.



Nan Rothrock, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Rothrock is a clinical psychologist and team scientist whose work focuses on health-related quality of life in chronic conditions. She works on the construction and validation of patient-reported outcome (PROs) measures, the development and application of health information technology using PROs, and the implementation of PROs in clinical practice. She provides education to clinical researchers and healthcare providers on person-centered assessment. She also conducts psychological evaluation and treatment in the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Benjamin Schalet, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Schalet is a research psychologist by training who specializes in the development and validation of patient-reported outcome (PRO) instruments, psychometric analysis, and applications of Item Response Theory (IRT). His research focuses on the psychometrics of the Patient-Reported Outcome Measurement and Information System (PROMIS). In particular, he has investigated how to link multiple PRO instruments to a common metric, such that scores can be translated from one instrument to another. Recently, his work has focused on the development of a new patient engagement instrument, and the validation of depression and anxiety PROs in different clinical settings.



Sara Shaunfield, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Shaunfield received a PhD in Communication from the University of Kentucky. Her research focuses on patient and family caregiver outcomes and quality of life, including patient-reported outcome measure development and validation. Dr. Shaunfield serves as Lead Qualitative Scientist and core member of the Northwestern University Center on Outcomes Research and Education (NUCORE) where she oversees and conducts qualitative scale development and content validation studies of illness-specific patient-reported outcome measures, symptom indices, patient preference questionnaires, and measures of health-related quality of life. She maintains a line of research exploring communication and informal family caregiver burden and health outcomes.



Darius Tandon, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Tandon is trained as a community psychologist. He has considerable expertise in the design and implementation of community-level interventions with much of his recent work focused on the development and replication of mental health interventions aimed at preventing the onset and worsening of depression among perinatal women in home visitation and early childhood programs. His research on the Mothers and Babies intervention was recently highlighted in a United States Preventive Services Task Force recommendation, naming Mothers and Babies as one of the two most effective interventions for preventing postpartum depression.

FACULTY BIOS



David Victorson, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Victorson is a licensed health psychologist, and one of his primary areas of research is on the role of contemplative awareness practices (e.g., mindfulness meditation, yoga) on outcomes of emotion regulation and wellbeing in medical patient populations and healthcare professionals. He is the Principal Investigator of multiple NIH-funded studies that focus on mindfulness and yoga, both to determine clinical efficacy, as well as to improve upon the measurement of mindfulness-related concepts through self-report. His research team is currently conducting mindfulness-based intervention trials aimed at decreasing fear of progression among men on active surveillance for prostate cancer and their spouses, managing side effects of radiation therapy during prostate cancer treatment, improving wellbeing in men with advanced prostate cancer, and enhancing treatment decision making for women diagnosed with breast cancer.



Joel Voss, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Voss's research uses cognitive and clinical neuroscience approaches to study the organization of memory in the human brain and the nature of memory disruptions in neurologic and neuropsychiatric conditions. He directs the Laboratory for Human Neuroscience, which develops innovative tools for modifying memory abilities using noninvasive as well as invasive brain stimulation. Recently, he has led a program of research creating new approaches for stimulation of the brain in order to improve memory. This brings exciting promise for patients with memory impairments caused by aging, neurodegenerative disease, traumatic brain injury, and many other conditions. Dr. Voss is the recipient of the Young Investigator Award from the Cognitive Neuroscience Society and received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.



Laurie Wakschlag, PhD
Professor and Vice Chair for Scientific & Faculty Development

Dr. Wakschlag is a clinical/developmental psychologist and translational investigator whose research is designed to characterize and prevent the early life onset of mental health problems beginning even before birth. She has led the development of the only measurement tools specifically designed to distinguish the normative misbehavior of early childhood from clinical problems, and through neuroscientific collaborations has tied these behavioral patterns to neural disruptions. She has conducted extensive research on how adverse prenatal environments shape early risk. She fervently believes that the most impactful science occurs at the boundaries of disciplines; leading and engaging in transdisciplinary team science is a defining feature of her work.



Katherine Watson, JD
Associate Professor

Ms. Watson is an award-winning Associate Professor of Medical Social Sciences, Medical Education and Obstetrics & Gynecology, and a Core Faculty Member of the Medical Humanities and Bioethics Master's Program. Katie graduated from NYU School of Law and practiced public interest law before completing Fellowships in clinical medical ethics and in medical humanities. She is the author of *Scarlet A: The Ethics, Law and Politics of Ordinary Abortion* (Oxford University Press 2018), and in the medical humanities she is best known for using her background in theater to create an innovative communication training method called "medical improv."



Kimberly Webster, MA
Research Assistant Professor

Ms. Webster has worked in the field of health outcomes research for 25 years, with a focus on the study and measurement of patient-reported outcomes (PROs), disease and treatment-related symptoms, and health status in patients with chronic illness conditions, as well as the implementation of PRO measures into clinical trial and other health outcomes research, and in clinical care. Her main scientific interests evolve around the development of patient-reported outcome questionnaires for clinical practice and research applications using applied qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and more recently, the use of these questionnaires to enhance symptom management. In addition to her faculty work, she serves as the Director of Research Operations, a department-wide shared resource pool of project managers and research study coordinators.



Christine Wood, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Wood is a sociologist working in the sociology of science and medicine and gender and sexuality studies. She is currently working on a NIH-sponsored project on career trajectories within the biomedical sciences and the diversification of the scientific workforce. Other projects include an assessment of language and identity among LGBTQ foster youth with collaborators at Lurie Children's Hospital and a previous project on male sexual fluidity. Her book, *Social Studies of Gender: A Next Wave Reader*, is forthcoming in Fall 2019 and is a compendium of essays on new approaches to gender and sexuality studies.



Betina Yanez, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Yanez' work bridges behavioral medicine and health equity research to investigate improvements in the outcomes of individuals diagnosed with cancer. In order to translate evidence-based research into cancer care, she has established an impactful and innovative research program that focuses on patient-centered care by engaging key stakeholders to address major public health problems among cancer patients, optimize cancer-related outcomes, and enhance cancer care delivery.

FACULTY BIOS



Lisa Wu, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Wu has conducted research examining quality of life and survivorship issues in cancer patients, particularly cognitive impairment. She has channeled her interest and clinical experiences in neurorehabilitation into her research that examines neurobehavioral and neurocognitive changes associated with cancer and its treatment, and the development of interventions to treat such changes. She is also interested in the underlying biological and chronobiological mechanisms of the cancer symptom cluster (including fatigue, cognitive impairment, sleep and mood disturbances) in cancer survivors. Dr. Wu's research has been funded by the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society.



Susan Yount, PhD
Professor

Dr. Yount is a clinical health psychologist and health outcomes researcher. Her research interests are in the development and validation of patient-reported outcomes measures and the applications of these measures to improve the clinical care and health status of patients with chronic illness. She has extensive research and clinical experience in oncology, chronic lung disease, organ transplantation and a variety of other chronic conditions. Dr. Yount also has over 15 years' experience working with PROMIS.



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THE COPD CAREGIVER'S TOOLKIT CCHEC PLANNING & EVALUATION CORE
ASSESSING OPENNESS TO USAGE OF BIOSIMILARS ADMIN SUPPLEMENT
THE NATIONAL PERSON-CENTERED ASSESSMENT RESOURCE (PCAR) MYCOG
RAPID DETECTION OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN EVERYDAY CLINICAL SETTINGS
THE CHICAGO CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEMS
RESEARCH TRAINING (ACCELERAT) PRAGMATIC CLINICAL TRIALS OF PROTON
VS PHOTO THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH BREAST AND LUNG CANCER BUILDING
CAPACITY FOR PATIENT-CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH TO IMPROVE THE
QUALITY AND IMPACT OF HIV CARE IN TANZANIA COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS
OF PULMONARY EMBOLISM PREVENTION AFTER HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENT
(PEPPER): BALANCING SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS PATIENT OSTEOARTHRITIS
CAREPLAN TO INFORM OPTIMAL TREATMENT THE CHICAGO COLLABORATIVE
TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE CANCER HEALTH EQUITY A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO
IMPROVE ICU CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED CANCER ANALYZING AND
INTERPRETING CLINICIAN AND PATIENT ADVERSE EVENT DATA TO BETTER
UNDERSTAND TOLERABILITY IN ECOG-ACRIN STUDIES ENGAGING HIGH-NEED
PATIENTS TO PRODUCE SCALABLE CARE THE MOBILETOOLBOX FOR **MEDICAL** HIGH-VALUE HEALTH MONITORING

SOCIAL SCIENCES COGNITIVE FUNCTION PROMIS MEASURES

RESEARCHONCOLOGY: A PROMISING SOLUTION MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY
SUPPORT: MEASURES OF ADJUSTMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE CORE CENTER
FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY POSITIVE AFFECT
REGULATION AS ADJUVANT TO INTEGRATIVE THERAPIES FOR CHRONIC PAIN:
DEVELOPMENT OF THE LARKSPUR CLINIC-BASED INTERVENTION DEVELOPMENT
OF A STANDARDIZED MEASURE OF SOCIAL-COMMUNICATION ABILITIES FOR
CHILDREN WITH NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS THE MOBILETOOLBOX FOR
MONITORING COGNITIVE FUNCTION EVALUATING PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES
MONITORING IN ROUTINE CARE OF PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA
FOR INCREASING ADHERENCE CLINICAL RESPONSE TO THERAPY: THE EMPATHY
PILOT STUDY INTEGRATIVE PATHWAYS TO HEALTH AND ILLNESS PROMIS