

# BUILDING ON A LEGACY

UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR  
HEALTH CARE POLICY AND AGING RESEARCH

## Annual Report FY21



**RUTGERS**

Institute for Health, Health Care  
Policy and Aging Research

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## WELCOME

After arriving at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research in 2018, I saw the potential for our growth over the course of the first five years. By working together with colleagues and partners from Rutgers and the community, we set forth a new collective vision for advancing population health that has become our five-year strategic plan. And now, reflecting back on our first year implementing this plan, it is remarkable to see just how much progress we have made toward achieving that vision.

We're expanding our cores, centers and programs, increasing our visibility, and engaging our community in new and meaningful ways. By building on our data and analytic capacity, we're able to continue advancing interdisciplinary and theory-based population health research. We're growing our faculty and staff and fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. We're adding to our physical space and embarking on new development opportunities.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the Institute has shown its ability to advance forward in the face of incredible challenges. I am proud of what we have accomplished in such a short time, shown throughout in these pages. Most of all, I am excited for what we will continue to do together to improve population health and become even more **visible**, **valuable**, and **viable**.

**XinQi Dong, MD, MPH**  
**Director**

# IMPACT

The Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research is a hub for multidisciplinary and translational research focused on improving population health. Over the past year, the work of our growing faculty and staff has had profound impacts on our communities, state and world.

## WHO WE ARE

**188**

FACULTY MEMBERS  
(MEMBERS IN RESIDENCE;  
CORE; ASSOCIATE;  
ADJUNCT)

**30+**

SCHOOLS,  
DEPARTMENTS,  
AND INSTITUTES  
REPRESENTED

**30**

NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITIES  
REPRESENTED

**6**

MEMBERS OF THE  
NATIONAL ACADEMY  
OF MEDICINE

## PUBLICATIONS



**4.71**

Average Impact Factor

Publications by core faculty and members in residence (57 members) increased nearly 60% from the previous year. Faculty were listed as first author of 67 publications, and as a corresponding author of 124 publications. More than 40 were in journals with an impact factor of at least 5.

## RECRUITMENT & HIRING

More than 40 new faculty and staff joined the Institute and its centers and programs in FY21. Of the new hires, 63% identified as part of diverse racial and ethnic groups. The Institute continues to focus on diverse recruitment strategies for all levels of faculty.

**46**

New Faculty and Staff



## POLICY & PRACTICE



Institute Director XinQi Dong and core faculty member Shawna Hudson were selected by the National Academy of Medicine to serve on committees examining issues within primary care, dementia caregiving and minority representation in research.

Dr. Dong was part of a U.S. Congressional Briefing hosted by U.S. Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Peter King (R-NY) on preventing and addressing elder abuse during COVID-19.

Center for State Health Policy faculty members were appointed by state leaders to serve on several boards and committees tasked with examining critical health care issues, including Gov. Phil Murphy's State Health Benefits Quality and Value Task Force, of which Center Director Joel C. Cantor was a member.

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## MEDIA COVERAGE

The Institute's great minds and work have been featured in continuous media coverage throughout FY21 and at critical points in the COVID-19 pandemic, with placements in top ranked outlets such as the New York Times, CNN, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal.

# 2.2K

Media Placements



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## AWARDS & GRANTMAKING

# \$22.5M

Total Dollars Awarded

Core faculty and members in residence submitted more than 80 grant applications totaling more than \$98 million in FY21. More than 30 grants were awarded, totaling \$22.5 million. In grantmaking activities, the Institute awarded more than \$161,000 to support pilot grants for year three Rutgers Asian RCMAR

scholars, as well as projects by two community organizations selected for the inaugural IFH Funds for Community-Academic Partnerships.



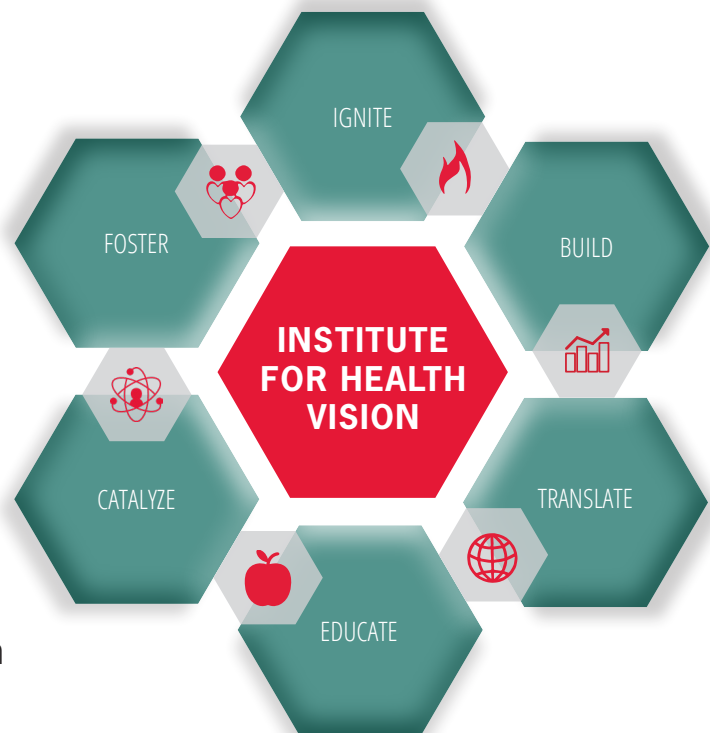
The Institute also provided stipends totaling \$16,000 to eight Summer Research Interns, as well as two awards totaling \$8,000 to the recipients of the Howard Leventhal Scholarship (formerly the David Mechanic Scholarship) in 2020.

# IGNITE

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2019, Institute faculty and staff joined colleagues and partners from across Rutgers and the community in a strategic planning process that set forth our vision for sustainable growth over the course of the next five years.

In the first year of our strategic plan, we have worked diligently to ensure a thoughtful implementation process and continued alignment of our five goals and strategic actions, even amid a rapidly changing environment and new population health challenges.



## CORE UPDATES

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Core provides state-of-the-art research technology and computing resources and support for the Institute's faculty, staff, centers and cores.

Throughout FY21, the Information Technology Core has focused on ensuring security policies and procedures are in continuous alignment with University and industry standards. As part of a multi-year infrastructure and service assessment plan, the team also has been working on ways to continue to meet the needs of users and improve quality of services provided.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the IT team was able to ensure business continuity and quickly provide faculty and staff with secure remote access to computing resources, servers and applications thanks to the Institute's existing technology and capabilities.

IT team members also participated in Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences' strategic planning IT subcommittee and Rutgers Office of Information Technology's project management and web environment committees.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Core is woven into the fabric of the Institute's mission to improve population health. The Core focuses on bridging the gap between community and the research, working with the community to develop community-led solutions to health equity challenges through impactful research, advocacy and multi-sector collaborations. We aim to support and amplify community-centered efforts to improve the health and well-being of New Jerseyans.

Our work includes robust collaboratives that meet on a regular basis to plan and implement community-based interventions to respond to the health needs of the community. We center community in our work and ensure that we are creating a space that invites knowledge exchange and resource sharing to communities impacted by health disparities.

In FY21, we launched and participated in a variety of partnerships and programs including free COVID-19 testing, food distribution, and holistic health information and resources.

## COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The Communications and Marketing Core creates compelling content to fuel the Institute's mission. In FY21, the Core focused strategic efforts on elevating the Institute's identity and reinforcing its position as the collaborative hub for knowledge on population health issues, as well as supporting its continued growth and vision for the future.

In response to the critical need for information on COVID-19, the Core issued numerous expert advisories and media pitches with faculty in FY21, resulting in high-visibility interviews and placements in top ranked media outlets around the world. Collaborating with Rutgers Communications Creative Services, the Core also produced a promotional video highlighting the Institute's work and mission.

The Core also worked to support numerous projects and initiatives across the Institute in FY21, including the New Jersey Practice-Based Research Network, New Jersey Population Health Cohort Study, and community outreach activities.





## NEW JERSEY POPULATION HEALTH COHORT STUDY

The New Jersey Population Health Cohort Study is the largest study to date to explore factors that influence health and well-being in the state. Beginning in 2021, the study seeks to improve our understanding of how life events and stress affect health and resilience, particularly within historically disadvantaged groups, multigenerational families, and immigrant groups.

While New Jersey ranks among the wealthiest states in the nation, it faces significant and persistent health disparities. The study will generate new knowledge that will help us build a healthier, more equitable New Jersey.



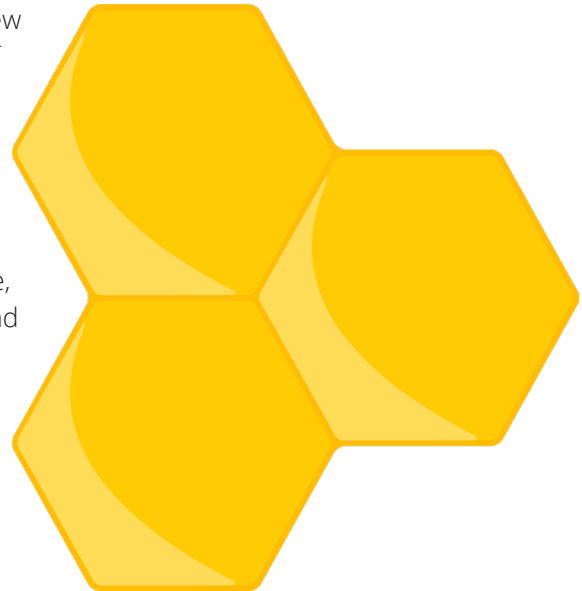


## NEW JERSEY PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK

The New Jersey Practice-Based Research Network is a new initiative led by the Institute to increase the presence of New Jersey clinical practices in academic research, with a mission to improve population health and equity for all New Jerseyans through practice-centered research, education, and dialogue.

Bridging clinical practice leaders to research expertise, the goal of NJ PBRN is to advance the implementation and dissemination of science.

The network will include primary care, medical specialties, and surgical specialties. Initial research focus areas include patient safety, healthy aging and social determinants of health, and will evolve with the needs of PBRN members.



### INTRODUCING THE NEW JERSEY PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK

The Institute launched the NJ PBRN in June 2021, with its fourth Rutgers IFH Catalyst Symposium. The two-day virtual event brought together clinicians, researchers, and leaders of PBRNs from across the country to present .

## SURVEY/DATA CORE

The Survey/Data Core is uniquely positioned as a central resource for supporting and providing cutting-edge big data and population-based survey research. Based at the Institute, the Core is home to a variety of data sets – including population-based surveys and from New Jersey-wide, national, and international administrative claims and electronic health record data, all stored in our HIPAA-compliant high performance computing environment.

As a National Institutes of Health Core Facility, this critical resource provides faculty and mentored students with access to up-to-date datasets to conduct research on their own, and also provides additional bandwidth for Core analysts to conduct data analysis and survey collection on their behalf.

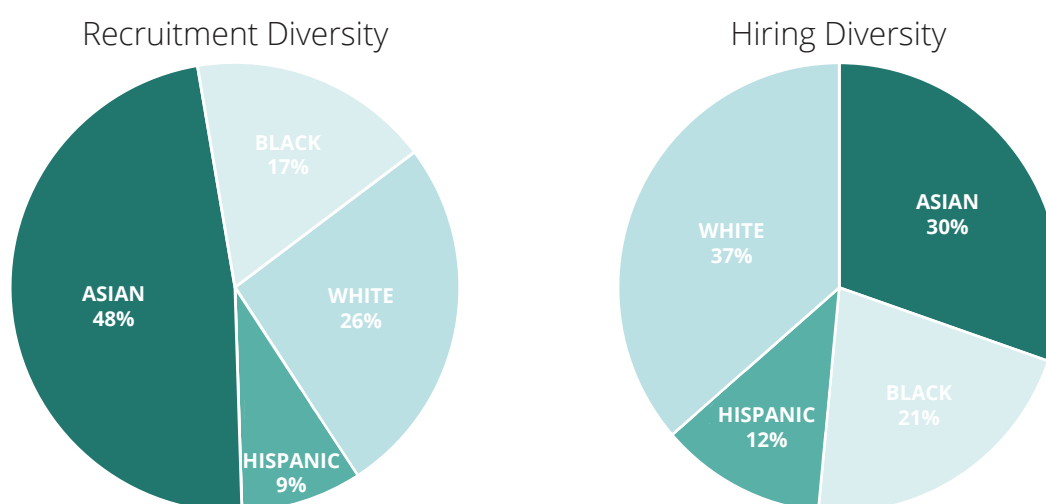
Over the past year, users have relied on Core data resources to support studies on COVID-19, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, cardiovascular diseases, liver disease, racial and ethnic disparities in the treatment of diseases, population health, and more. Looking ahead, the Core is excited to continue to make available the most current datasets to allow for the most scientifically rigorous research design and output.

In FY22, the Core is also excited to expand its reach to faculty in other disciplines to allow for a greater variety of studies and even greater impact.

# TRANSLATE

## DIVERSITY

The Institute is committed to recruiting and retaining talented and dedicated members with a focus on fostering a diverse, equitable and inclusive community and environment. These values are reflected in the Institute's long-term goals, as well as a new Diversity Strategic Plan prepared in FY21 in conjunction with the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Diversity Steering Committee.



## CORE UPDATES

### BUSINESS & GRANTS MANAGEMENT

As part of a major research hub at Rutgers University, the Institute's Business and Grants Management Core assists principal investigators and their research teams, faculty, staff and student employees with grants management activities from pre- to post-award, as well as human resources and administration.

Over the past year, the Business and Grants Management Core has been working to streamline processes for grant reporting in alignment with the needs of principal investigators, and has developed

templates for budgets, reconciliation and other standard processes to ensure accuracy and efficiency as part of the Core's mission and strategic goals to provide superior service.

The Business and Grants Management Core has recently expanded to a team of eight as the Institute has grown rapidly over the past year. The pandemic beginning in early 2020 further accelerated the pace, with new opportunities and submissions for subawards and Rutgers internal grants related to COVID-19 research.

## RUTGERS BIG IDEAS

Announced in 2021, Rutgers Big Ideas aim to move the needle on critical issues of our day. Among the 12 exceptional projects is the Center for Healthy Aging, led by the Institute.



The center aims to create a platform on which clinicians, researchers, caregivers, nonmedical partners, and patients can combine resources to gather patient-centered research and develop evidence-based care strategies focused on the “whole person.”

The center will be housed at the Institute, providing a resource hub and a community outreach component to engage with and serve populations throughout New Jersey.

## DEVELOPMENT & PHILANTHROPY

The Development and Philanthropy Core aims to create a culture of philanthropy at the Institute and raise essential funds to sustain its work.

Throughout FY21, the Core led engagement events, including a 35th anniversary seminar, to develop relationships with potential donors and highlight the research underway at the Institute. The Core also worked to expand the Institute's Leadership Council, and promote participation in Rutgers Giving Day, resulting in a successful campaign for the third consecutive year.

In 2020, the Institute received a generous gift from Dr. Randall Krakauer, a physician and pioneering health care administrator whose career focused on driving innovations in managed care. The Krakauer Fund is providing seed funding for doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to begin their careers and continue to shape the future of patient care.

The Development and Philanthropy Core also supported the selection of the Center for Healthy Aging as one of Rutgers Big Ideas, and is leading efforts to secure interest and support for its success.



## COVID-19 RESEARCH



### HEALTH CARE WORKERS

In 2020, Rutgers launched the nation's largest study of health care workers exposed to COVID-19. Researchers including Dr. Daniel Horton, assistant professor of pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Center for Pharmacoepidemiology and Treatment Science, found that health care workers – particularly nurses – were at greater risk of infection than non health-care workers, and the risks were greatest for hospital support staff and Black and Latinx hospital employees.



### OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT

The Center for Health Services Research has been studying the intersecting COVID-19 and opioid epidemics, examining the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with opioid use disorder as well as the considerable changes that took place the rules that govern regulating and paying for treatment services. Professor James Walkup and Center Director Stephen Crystal received Rutgers funding to collect data on how federal and states regulations have adapted.



### CHILDREN'S WEIGHT STATUS

The National Institutes of Health awarded a grant to Michael Yedidia, research professor and senior medical sociologist at the Center for State Health Policy, to support a five-year study beginning in FY21 of the impact of school closures necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic on children's weight status, and the potential of federal emergency meals programs to mitigate adverse consequences.



### OLDER ADULTS & ISOLATION

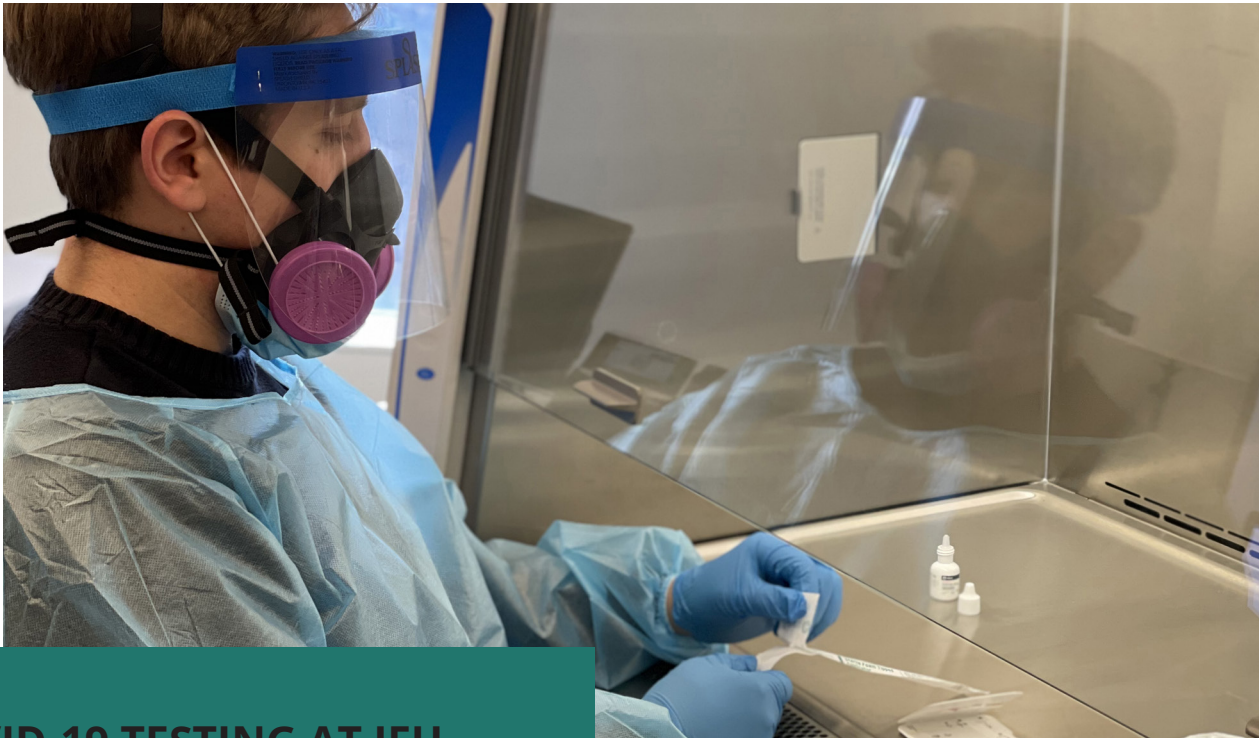
The Institute is leading a study in FY21 to understand factors associated with the mental health consequences of COVID-19, as well as the social and behavioral changes that occur in response to COVID-19 in among older adult populations. While social and physical distancing is a likely effective tool in reducing the spread of communicable disease like COVID-19, there are known consequences of isolation and loneliness for older adults, which has been linked to numerous negative health outcomes.



### VACCINE CHALLENGE TRIALS

Nir Eyal, Henry Rutgers Professor of Bioethics and director of the Center for Population-Level Bioethics, has been a leading voice in ethical discussions around human challenge trials aimed at expediting development and testing of COVID-19 vaccines. Scholarly work by Eyal and researchers at the center prompted a bipartisan Congressional letter of support for human challenge trials, as well as the creation of an international trial participant registry with more than 40,000 volunteers.

# EDUCATE



## COVID-19 TESTING AT IFH

In March 2021, the Institute began offering free COVID-19 testing for the community several days per week at its offices in New Brunswick. In the first 12 weeks of the program, the team provided nearly 300 tests.

Throughout FY21, the Institute has provided flyers and educational materials as well as webinars and virtual town halls about how to stay safe and well, research into vaccines and treatments, and other important information about available COVID-19 vaccines.

The Institute also launched #IFHTranslates, a Twitter campaign that provides daily translations of official New Jersey COVID-19 updates in nine languages, including Spanish, Hindi, Urdu, Tagalog and Korean. Translations are completed by IFH research assistants and volunteers and are shared on Twitter accounts with language-specific hashtags. The Institute also partners with the TV Asia network to provide weekly COVID-19 updates for newscasts in Hindi and Gujarati.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION & TRANSLATION

In March 2020, as COVID-19 forced much of the world to shut down, the Institute took action, identifying ways to leverage resources, community partnerships and research to generate new knowledge about the novel coronavirus and keep community members informed during the pandemic.

In conjunction with community partners, the Institute also began creating and translating educational one-pagers to answer frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccines from the community.

# FOSTER

## SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

The Institute's long-standing 10-week Summer Research Internship Program transitioned to an online experience for 2020. Nine interns from diverse backgrounds were selected from 110 applications from undergraduate and graduate students. Working with mentors, the interns pursued and presented on a variety of biomedical or social science research projects.



## GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

In late 2020, the Institute hosted its 10-week Grant Writing Workshop for early career faculty and advanced postdoctoral fellows and associates. Attendees from across RBHS units learned about successfully negotiating the peer-reviewed grant system, and crafting compelling applications, with a variety of planned grant funders, including NIMH, NCI, NIMHD, and state funds. In providing feedback on the series, one attendee said, "This is the best thing Rutgers has done for tenure track faculties in their professional development, in my opinion."



## FACULTY & STAFF

The individuals below are among the many new and existing faculty and staff who have made outstanding contributions to the work of the Institute and its centers and programs in FY21.



**Eileen Aleo**  
Business Specialist, IFH



**Tammy Chung, PhD**  
Professor of Psychiatry &  
Core Faculty, IFH



**Login S. George, PhD**  
Assistant Professor & Core  
Faculty, IFH



**Matthew Iozzio, MBA, MPP**  
Associate Director, Survey/  
Data Core, PETS



**Monica Magalhaes, PhD**  
Program Manager, CPLB



**Jose Nova, MS**  
Assistant Director of Data  
Management, CSHP



**Hillary Samples, PhD, MHS**  
Assistant Professor & Core  
Faculty, CHSR



**Jonathan Thompson**  
System Administrator, IFH



**Charu Verma, MPH**  
Data Analyst, IFH

# CATALYZE

## CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

### CENTER FOR HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

A major focus area of the Center for Health Services Research in FY21 has been the opioid overdose epidemic. Through a four-year grant awarded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, CHSR continued its collaboration with researchers from Columbia University, New York University, and University of Missouri to examine causes and outcomes of opioid overdoses among Medicaid beneficiaries, and the impact of state and federal policies intended to address opioid misuse and overdose. CHSR expanded this work through a two-year grant from the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts to evaluate innovative payer and provider strategies for integrating medications for opioid use disorder into primary medical care.

CHSR's work includes studying the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with OUD and treatment processes after service delivery was transformed overnight. CHSR is working to inform the policy conversation with the goal of improving care for people both during and beyond the public health emergency.

The Center is committed to identifying and informing efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Qiana L. Brown, an epidemiologist, social worker and translational scientist, uses a health equity framework to focus her research on system-level change to improve maternal and child health. Her research centers on preventing prenatal substance use. In-progress work by CHSR also includes quantifying state and national racial and ethnic disparities in opioid use disorder diagnosis and treatment utilization. Jennifer Miles, postdoctoral associate, examines inequities in medication treatment for non-elderly disabled Medicare beneficiaries with OUD.

In FY21, CHSR was awarded a contract from the New Jersey Department of Human Services to evaluate the Intensive Recovery Treatment Support Program, a peer navigator program for individuals with opioid use disorder leaving state prisons. CHSR is collaborating with the Department of Corrections and Department of Health to better understand the needs and outcomes of released prisoners with substance use disorders.





## CENTER FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY

The Center for State Health Policy's childhood obesity research has generated critical findings on the effects of the food and physical activity environment on weight status published in several journals throughout the past year. Investigators found changes in federal nutrition standards for school meals contributed to healthier offerings in public schools in the cities studied. More nutritious school meals and greater opportunities for physical activity also were associated with healthier weight status.

In the community food environment, exposure to additional convenience stores in close proximity to a child's home results in weight gain over time, whereas proximity to additional small grocery stores selling a specified minimum of healthy items leads to healthier weight outcomes. These findings are particularly important to designing interventions and establishing public policies influencing location of retail stores in dense urban environments.

Over the last several years, the Center has pursued research addressing the critical nexus of homelessness and Medicaid. People experiencing homelessness suffer disproportionate mental health and other chronic morbidities and use potentially avoidable hospital inpatient and emergency department services at very high rates. With funding from the New Jersey Medicaid program and The Nicholson Foundation, CSHP investigators linked homeless services and Medicaid data to analyze patterns of health services use by people experiencing different levels of homelessness. They also examined the impact of supportive housing placements of homeless Medicaid beneficiaries finding improved utilization patterns.

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, investigators are studying innovative demonstration programs in four states that are financing tenancy support services for formerly homeless beneficiaries. Currently, CSHP is developing additional studies to address deep health equity and population health concerns among people experiencing homelessness.

In response to COVID-19, the Center also began a series of virtual policy forums with experts and thought leaders focusing on critical health policy challenges and creative policy strategies to address healthcare delivery gaps and disparate impacts on communities.



# CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

## CENTER FOR PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY AND TREATMENT SCIENCE

The Center for Pharmacoepidemiology and Treatment Science is celebrating a milestone fifth year beginning in July 2021. Over the past year, the center has been growing at a rapid pace despite the COVID-19 pandemic. PETS has continued to hire new faculty and staff, submit numerous grant applications, and conduct high impact research. Working with the Rutgers School of Public Health, the Center developed a pharmacoepidemiology certificate, and it also provides mentorship to Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy pharmacoepidemiology fellows, medical residents, and students.

Center investigators have conducted numerous studies using Medicare and Medicaid resources to help address uncertainties in a variety of public health areas during FY21. Center Director and Associate Professor Tobias Gerhard is currently studying drug-disease interactions in older adults, which affect a large and growing number of older adults and have been associated with severe adverse outcomes including increased mortality.

Soko Setoguchi, professor of medicine and epidemiology, has been hard at work studying the effects of extreme heat among users and non-users of commonly used medications in high-risk older adults and assessing the risk of air pollution in these populations. She also is involved in international research in Japan, including work on a multi-institutional consortium to study COVID-19.

Assistant Professor Dr. Daniel B. Horton is conducting numerous studies in the pediatric population, including an investigation of whether antibiotics can contribute to the development of juvenile idiopathic arthritis and impair children's ability to respond to standard treatments, as well as using biomarkers to predict risk for severe COVID-19 disease in children and adolescents.

Assistant Professor Chintan Dave is leading a study examining the clinical issues that arise in patients who are dually diagnosed with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. And Assistant Professor Greta Bushnell is launching an exciting study examining the risk of overdose and harmful substance use following benzodiazepine treatment.

## ASIAN RESOURCE CENTER FOR MINORITY AGING RESEARCH

The Rutgers Asian Resource Center for Minority Aging Research fosters the next generation of diverse investigators and provides support for research among Asian American older adults. The Center has provided nearly \$732,000 in pilot funding for RCMAR scholars over the past three years and will begin its fourth year of pilot projects in FY22.

In FY21, the Center has focused on improving and strengthening advocacy for Asian American communities, and increasing engagement and partnerships with organizations serving Asian communities in New Jersey. The Center has also focused on fostering collaborations between RCMAR scholars, resulting in significant growth in individual co-authorship networks.

A virtual retreat in September 2020 explored the intersection of research and storytelling, with the goal of helping RCMAR scientists share the knowledge they are generating with the world. The Center also continued monthly didactic sessions with researchers in FY21 and launched a newsletter to highlight achievements and share announcements with researchers, stakeholders and the community.

## NEW JERSEY HEALTH INITIATIVES

As a statewide grantmaking program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Jersey Health Initiatives played a unique role in 2020 in supporting efforts to identify and address urgent needs brought about by COVID-19. Grantees' priorities suddenly shifted as the pandemic took hold, and NJHI was able to allow flexibility and redirect funds to programs and services to address the devastating health and economic crisis.

The program worked with its networks across the state to identify and fill funding gaps geographically, socio-economically and demographically, awarding \$400,000 in RWJF pandemic aid to community-based organizations to address New Jerseyans' immediate needs such as food, housing and income assistance. This funding is part of the more than \$5 million RWJF committed to relief efforts in its home state of New Jersey.

Cross-sector collaborations have become central to NJHI's grantmaking and health equity work. Youth are an underutilized and overlooked partner, as program Director Robert L. Atkins and coauthors noted in a paper discussing the Next Generation Community Leaders initiative, a \$2.8 million initiative funded by NJHI. Provided the opportunity and resources, youth can add value as partners to solve problems and achieve goals to benefit their communities.

In November 2020, NJHI also announced a new funding program to help small communities with fewer than 50,000 residents in southern New Jersey address challenges to health and health equity through cross-sector collaboration and making better use of data resources.

The NJHI: Small Communities Forging Hyperlocal Data Collaboratives initiative awarded grants to 10 recipients who identified gaps and challenges in their communities – such as education and employment, food access, obesity and children in poverty – and who aimed to close those gaps by collaborating with partners across sectors such as: education, arts, public safety, libraries, public health, faith-based organizations, behavioral health and health care, elected officials and municipal agencies.



PHOTO: ROBERT L. ATKINS

# CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

## CENTER FOR ASIAN HEALTH

The Center for Asian Health at Saint Barnabas Medical Center focuses on meeting the health care needs of the ethnically diverse population of northern New Jersey, primarily serving Chinese Americans through culturally sensitive care. Throughout FY21, the center, led by Medical Director Dr. Su Wang, has hosted and worked with partners on several webinars to promote health education in the community, focusing on topics including viral hepatitis, cancer screenings, well-being of Chinese older adults during COVID-19, and the impacts of anti-Asian racism and discrimination on health.

Notably, CAH hosted a World Hepatitis Day event on July 28, 2020, which was the first outdoor event for the Center since COVID-19 outbreak in March. The program also included free Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C screenings and distribution of test kits for colon cancer screening. In conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health, CAH also has been working on a NJ statewide Hepatitis elimination strategy.

CAH manages a hospital-wide hepatitis screening program where over 75,000 patients have been screened and those positively identified are linked to care at the Liver Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. Launched in 2020, the Liver Center, in collaboration with Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, is dedicated to caring for patients with liver conditions, and specializes in the diagnosis, care and treatment of a wide spectrum of liver diseases.

Through an award with Rutgers Asian Resource Center for Minority Aging Research, CAH conducted a study to measure and address social determinants of health and health-related social needs in a clinic setting serving an ethnically diverse population. Study results revealed higher than anticipated reports of interpersonal violence and food insecurity in our primary care patient population, reports of immigration related trauma, and lower neighborhood perceptions and belonging.

CAH also participated in a global multisite comparative study of Remdesivir for severe COVID-19 versus a cohort receiving standard of care. This study included retrospective investigation of 130 COVID-19 positive patients which led to a comparative analysis determining Remdesivir significantly leading to greater recovery and reducing the odds of death versus standard of care treatment in patients with COVID-19.







## CENTER FOR POPULATION-LEVEL BIOETHICS

The Center for Population-Level Bioethics was founded in 2019 by Director Nir Eyal, Henry Rutgers Professor of Bioethics. As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in early 2020, the Center quickly began work focusing on ethics of research into coronavirus vaccines, with great attention to the use of human challenge trials to speed up development.

The Center also continues to work on, among other issues, the ethics of risky clinical trials for COVID-19 and beyond. Generally, the Center's researchers are interested in the ethics of imposing risks on a few people to benefit society, and have published numerous papers on the issue in leading journals throughout the year.

Notably, the Center's work on challenge trials inspired an organization that has since recruited and organized over 38,000 volunteers for future COVID-19 challenge trials all over the world and has been working to promote global access to COVID-19 vaccines. The Center also received support for the work through a grant from the National Science Foundation and a donation from Open Philanthropy.

The Center has grown considerably since its founding, with new hires including Research Professor Daniel Hausman, Assistant Professor Mark Budolfson, Postdoctoral Associate Bastian Steuwer.

In 2020, CPLB began hosting weekly seminars open to colleagues at Rutgers and around the world focusing on currently relevant ethical issues, and works-in-progress in population-level bioethics. Institute faculty exploring issues with strong ethics or equity components can obtain useful feedback through the seminars if ethical questions align with CPLB's research areas. The Center also hosted its first webinar on the global burden of disease and COVID-19 in November 2020, and launched a weekly online debate series, "Dilemmas," in early 2021.

# MEMBERS

## MEMBERS IN RESIDENCE & CORE MEMBERS:

Zeeshan Ahmed, PhD  
Ayse Akincigil, PhD  
Robert L. Atkins, PhD, RN  
Francis Barchi, PhD  
Mark Budolfson, PhD  
Greta A. Bushnell, PhD, MSPH  
Sharon Bzostek, PhD  
Joel C. Cantor, ScD  
Sujoy Chakravarty, PhD  
Michelle Chen, PhD  
Tammy Chung, PhD  
Richard Contrada, PhD  
Stephen Crystal, PhD  
Chintan Dave, PharmD, PhD  
XinQi Dong, MD, MPH  
Nir Eyal, DPhil  
Susan G. Forman, PhD  
David Frankford, JD  
Login George, PhD  
Tobias Gerhard, PhD  
Ashley Grosso, PhD  
Peter Guarnaccia, PhD  
Michael K. Gusmano, PhD  
Daniel M. Hausman, PhD  
Donald Hoover, PhD  
Daniel Horton, MD, MSCE  
Shawna Hudson, PhD  
William T. Hu, MD, PhD  
Olga Jarrín Montaner, PhD, RN  
Yanping Jiang, PhD  
Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH  
Elissa Kozlov, PhD  
Alex Kusnecov, PhD  
Teresa Leyro, PhD  
Thomas Mackie, PhD  
Richard Marlink, MD  
Margaret Marsh, PhD  
David Mechanic, PhD  
Brett Millar, PhD  
Alan Monheit, PhD  
Dawne Mouzon, PhD  
Ann M. Nguyen, PhD  
Darina Petrovsky, PhD, RN  
Julie Phillips, PhD  
Kathleen Pottick, PhD  
Mary Beth Ritchey, PhD

Hillary Samples, PhD  
Diana Sanchez, PhD  
Johanna Schoen, PhD  
Edward Selby, PhD  
Soko Setoguchi, MD, DrPH  
Kristen Springer, PhD  
Frank Thompson, PhD  
Jennifer Tsui, PhD, MPH  
Jeanette Valentine, PhD  
James Walkup, PhD  
Michael Yedidia, PhD, MPH

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Sarah Allred, PhD  
Alok Baveja, PhD  
Trishnee Bhurosy, PhD  
Kathryn Biernacki, PhD  
Stephanie Bonne, MD  
Emily Bosk, PhD  
Jeffrey Brenner, MD  
Qiana Brown, PhD, MPH  
Ying-Yu Chao, PhD, RN  
Brian Chu, PhD  
Eric Chwang, MD, PhD  
Patrick Clifford, PhD  
Shana L. Cole, PhD  
Nancy D. Connell, PhD  
Francine Conway, PhD  
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