Adjunct Workshop

Convergence of Dissemination & Implementation Research Methods and Embedded Pragmatic Trials:

Examples from the NIH HCS and NIA IMPACT ADRD Collaboratories

December 13, 2021

Speaker Biographies

Abraham Brody, PhD, RN, FAAN
NYU Langone Health

The Hospice Advanced Dementia Symptom Management and Quality of Life Trial (HAS-QOL)

Ab Brody, PhD, RN, FAAN is associate director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing and associate professor of Nursing and Medicine at NYU Meyers College of Nursing. He is also the founder of Aliviado Health and the Pilot Core Lead of the NIA IMPACT Collaboratory. His work focuses on the intersection of geriatrics, palliative care, quality, and equity. The primary goal of his research, clinical, and policy pursuits is to improve the quality of care for older adults with serious illness wherever they reside. His primary mode for doing so is through the development, testing, and dissemination of real-word, technology, and informatics supported quality improvement interventions. He is currently the principal investigator of two NIH-funded large-scale pragmatic clinical trials to improve the quality of care and quality of life for persons living with dementia and their caregivers in the community and a co-investigator on several other pragmatic trials and health services research projects in geriatrics and palliative care. Brody also maintains an active practice in the Geriatric and Palliative Consult Services at NYU Langone Health.

Devon K. Check, PhD
Duke University School of Medicine

Devon Check, PhD is a health services and implementation researcher. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Duke and a member of the Duke Cancer Institute. Her primary research interests are quality of care and implementation of evidence-based practices in oncology. Dr. Check's work combines quantitative and qualitative methods to understand and address barriers to the delivery of high-quality, equitable care during and after cancer treatment. She is a Co-Investigator for the NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory Coordinating Center and leads the implementation science

resource efforts for Collaboratory demonstration projects.

Geoffrey M. Curran, PhD

Dr. Curran is a medical sociologist. He is Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). His broad research area has been health services research, with focus in the diffusion of innovation in a variety of health care settings (e.g., specialty care, primary care, and community settings). For the past 20 years he has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health (US), the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and other funders to develop and test a range of facilitation and other implementation strategies designed to support the uptake and sustainment of evidence-based practices. Dr. Curran also has written widely on research design and methodology in implementation science. He is the Director of the Center for Implementation Research at UAMS. The Center is devoted to developing and testing implementation strategies across a wide range of service contexts, assisting with the implementation of practices within UAMS clinics and community practices, and training the next generation of implementation scientists.

Richard Fortinsky, PhD
UConn Center on Aging, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

[Pilot Pragmatic Clinical Trial to Embed Tele-Savvy into Health Care Systems](#)

Richard H. Fortinsky, PhD, is a professor at the University Of Connecticut School Of Medicine, where he is a core faculty member at the UConn Center on Aging and holds the Health Net, Inc. endowed chair in geriatrics and gerontology. For more than 30 years, Dr. Fortinsky has collaborated with colleagues from a wide range of scientific disciplines, and with numerous healthcare system and community-based organization partners, to design and carry out studies intended to improve healthcare and optimize health-related outcomes for community-dwelling older adults living with Alzheimer's disease and AD-related dementia and their families. Presently, he serves as principal investigator for studies funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute designed to test in-home, team-based interventions targeting older adults with cognitive vulnerability due to dementia, depression, and/or a history of delirium.

Ariel Green, MD, MPH, PhD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

[ALIGN: Aligning Medications with What Matters Most](#)

Ariel Green, MD, MPH, PhD is an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her research focuses on improving communication between older adults, care partners and health care professionals about unnecessary and potentially harmful interventions, including medication use. As a member of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Clinical Practice Committee, Dr. Green co-wrote the Society's recommendations for Choosing Wisely, a

national initiative that promotes patient-physician conversations about unnecessary medical tests and procedures. Dr. Green received the AGS Choosing Wisely Champion Award for leading efforts to reduce overuse in medicine. Her research, supported by the NIA, is evaluating the impact on patient and care partner outcomes of pragmatic interventions to optimize prescribing for older adults with dementia in primary care. A former award-winning health journalist, Dr. Green has published personal essays and op-eds in Annals of Internal Medicine, The Washington Post and The New York Times, among other publications.

Patrick Heagerty, PhD
University of Washington

Dr. Patrick Heagerty is Professor and former Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Washington. He received a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University, and a BS from Cornell University. He has extensive experience as an educator, independent and collaborative scientist, and administrator. He has developed fundamental methods for longitudinal studies with a focus on prognostic model evaluation and structural longitudinal models, and he has detailed rigorous methods for the design, analysis, and interpretation of cluster-randomized trials conducted within health care delivery systems. Dr. Heagerty has co-authored two leading texts (Analysis of Longitudinal Data, Oxford 2002; Biostatistics: A Methodology for the Health Sciences, Wiley 2004). He is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association and has twice been honored by professional societies for specific research contributions (in 2000 as the Snedecor Award winner; and in 2005 by the International Biometrics Society for the best paper published in the society's flagship journal, Biometrics). Dr. Heagerty directs the Center for Biomedical Statistics (CBS), a core partially funded by the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) with responsibility for coordination of biostatistical collaboration in Seattle and the greater Northwest region (Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Montana). The CBS houses the data coordinating centers for several U01 and R01 funded projects including GARNET (Genomics and Randomized Trials), BOLD (Backpain Outcomes using Longitudinal Data), UH3 funded pragmatic trials including LIRE (Lumbar Imaging Reporting with Epidemiology), and PCORI funded trials evaluating surgical interventions and psychiatric treatment strategies. The CBS has previously conducted high-impact multi-site randomized trials including INVEST (Investigational Vertebroplasty Safety and Efficacy Trial, NEJM 2009), the Carpal Tunnel Surgical Trial (Lancet 2009), and LESS (Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injections for Spinal Stenosis, NEJM 2014). Dr. Heagerty is the Director of the Biostatistics and Research Design Core for the NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory, for the NIH Mental Health Research Network, and a member of the Executive Committee for the FDA Sentinel Innovation Center. Dr. Heagerty is also a licensed teacher (NY State: Mathematics, Biology, and Chemistry) and has taught from middle school to graduate school (UW SPH Outstanding Teacher Award, 2009).

Jonathan Jackson, PhD
Instructor in Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital
Instructor, Harvard Medical School

Jonathan Jackson, PhD, is the founding director of the Community Access, Recruitment, and Engagement (CARE) Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, which investigates the impact of diversity and inclusion on the quality of human subjects research and leverages deep community entrenchment to build trust and overcome barriers to clinical trial participation. Dr. Jackson also works as a cognitive neuroscientist, investigating the early detection of Alzheimer's disease (AD), particularly in the absence of overt memory problems. He specializes in identifying and overcoming barriers to clinical research for people and communities of color. He has become a well-known MGH representative to communities of color and dozens of affiliated organizations, particularly regarding clinical research. Dr. Jackson serves on the leadership team of several organizations focused on community health, as well as local, statewide, and national advisory groups for research recruitment, Alzheimer's disease, and community engagement.

Ellen M. McCreedy, MPH, PhD
Brown University

[Music & MEmory: A Pragmatic TRial for Nursing Home Residents With ALzheimer's Disease_part1 (METRIcAL)](#)

Ellen McCreedy is interested in improving the quality of life for people with dementia. Her research goals are to help people living with dementia receive the care they desire at the end of life; and to provide comfort, meaning, and moments of joy to people living with dementia and their families. Professor McCreedy received her MPH in Global Health and Epidemiology from the University of South Florida, her PhD in Health Services Research from the University of Minnesota, and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at Brown University, Center for Gerontology and Healthcare Research. Dr. McCreedy is directing a pragmatic trial of a personalized music intervention to reduce agitation and isolation in nursing home residents with dementia. She is also leading a pragmatic trial focused on helping people living with dementia in assisted living centers have better advance care planning conversations with their providers.

Vincent Mor, PhD
Brown University School of Public Health

https://impactcollaboratory.org/business-directory/1943/mor-vincent-phd/

Vincent Mor, PhD, is a professor of health services, policy & practice and Florence Pirce Grant Professor in the Brown University School of Public Health, and has been principal investigator of 40+ NIH-funded grants focusing on use of health services and outcomes of frail and chronically ill people. He has evaluated the impact of programs and policies including Medicare

funding of hospice, changes in Medicare nursing home payment, and the introduction of nursing home quality measures. He co-authored the Congressionally-mandated Minimum Data Set (MDS) and was architect of an integrated Medicare claims and clinical assessment data structure used for policy analysis, pharmaco-epidemiology and population outcome measurement. Dr. Mor developed summary measures using MDS data to characterize residents' physical, cognitive and psycho-social functioning. These data resources are the heart of Dr. Mor's NIA- funded Program Project Grant, "Changing Long Term Care in America," which examines the impact of Medicaid and Medicare policies on long-term care. These data are also at the core of a series of large, pragmatic cluster randomized trials of novel nursing home-based interventions led by Dr. Mor.

Dr. Mor is one of the Principal Investigators of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) **IM**bedded **P**ragmatic **A**lzheimer's Disease (AD) and AD-Related Dementias (AD/ADRD) **C**linical **T**rials (IMPACT) Collaboratory which was established in 2019 to meet the urgent public health need to deliver high quality, evidence-based care to people living with dementia (PLWD) and their care partners within the healthcare systems (HCS) that serve them. The Mission of IMPACT is to build the nation's capacity to conduct pragmatic clinical trials of interventions embedded within health care systems for people living with dementia and their care partners.

Stephanie Morain, PhD, MPH
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Stephanie Morain is an Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins in the Department of Health Policy & Management in the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Berman Institute of Bioethics. She conducts both empirical and normative research into issues at the intersection of ethics, law, and health policy.

Her work examines ethical and policy challenges presented by the integration of research and care, particularly issues pertaining to learning health care systems and pragmatic clinical trials. Other research interests include the ethics and politics of disease control and injury prevention, and women's reproductive health.

Stephanie received her AB from Lafayette College with a dual major in Biology and History, Government, and Law, her MPH from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and her PhD from Harvard University's Interfaculty Initiative in Health Policy. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Berman Institute for Bioethics at Johns Hopkins University. From 2016-2021, she was a faculty member in the Center of Medical Ethics & Health Policy at Baylor College of Medicine.

Wynne E. Norton, PhD
National Cancer Institute, NIH
Wynne E. Norton, Ph.D. is a Program Director in Implementation Science (IS) in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Norton holds a secondary appointment in the Healthcare Delivery Research Program and also serves as co-chair of the DCCPS Clinical Trials Coordination Group.

Dr. Norton's research interests include de-implementation of ineffective interventions, evidence-based cancer care delivery, and pragmatic trials of implementation strategies. She serves as faculty for the NCI Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation in Cancer (TIDIRC). Dr. Norton is a Program Scientist for three NCI Cancer Moonshot[SM] Initiatives: Accelerating Colorectal Cancer Screening and Follow-up Through Implementation Science (ACCSIS⧉), Improving the Management of symPtoms during And following Cancer Treatment (IMPACT), and the Implementation Science Centers in Cancer Control (ISC3). She is also on the editorial board of the journal *Implementation Science*.

Prior to joining the NCI in 2015, Dr. Norton was an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. She conducted implementation research in HIV/AIDS, surgical care, cancer, and other health areas with funding from the NIH, CDC, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among other agencies. In 2012, Dr. Norton taught a novel course in implementation science. Dr. Norton received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Connecticut (2009). Her dissertation was funded by an individual National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Norton received her B.A. in Psychology with honors from the College of William and Mary (2004).

Annette Totten, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University

ADVANCE-PC: Testing Critical Components for a Trial of Advance Care Planning in Primary Care for Dementia

Annette Totten, PhD, MPA, is an associate professor in the Department of Medical Informatics & Clinical Epidemiology at the OHSU School of Medicine and teaches in Public Health Practice program in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. Her research interests include aging, chronic disease, long-term services and supports, shared decision making, and research methods. Dr. Totten conducts primary research in related to serious illness, advance care planning, and aging in a network of US and Canadian primary care Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs) and directs systematic reviews and projects to develop clinical practice guides for a range of topics at the Pacific Northwest Evidence based Practice Center.

Wendy J. Weber, ND, PhD, MPH
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), NIH

Dr. Weber is the Branch Chief for the Clinical Research in Complementary and Integrative Health Branch in the Division of Extramural Research at the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) at NIH. She joined NCCIH as a program director in 2009. The Clinical Research Branch is responsible for the oversight of all NCCIH-supported clinical trials. Dr. Weber is coordinator for NCCIH's Clinical Trial Specific Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and point-of-contact for natural product-related clinical trial FOAs. She is a member of the NIH Common Fund-supported Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory and the program officer for the Coordinating Center. Dr. Weber is also a member of the planning and oversight team for the NIH-DoD-VA Nonpharmacologic Approaches to Pain Management Collaboratory and project scientist for its Coordinating Center.

At NCCIH, Dr. Weber oversees a portfolio of pragmatic clinical trials, natural product clinical trials, studies of complementary medicine to promote healthy behavior, and complex complementary/integrative medicine intervention research. Her interests include the use of complementary medicine interventions for common pediatric conditions, mental health conditions, promoting healthy behaviors, and health services research.