MISSION

The Center for Health Policy (CHP) is dedicated to supporting the training of nurses in health policy methods as well as developing and disseminating knowledge that informs health policymakers at all levels.

The CHP provides opportunities for Columbia Nursing students in all programs to learn how advocacy and policy are integral parts of nursing, affecting not only the life of each patient, but also the practice of each nurse. The CHP supports training of nurses to help shape the national discussion on public health. Within the School of Nursing and University at large, associated pre- and postdoctoral fellows are provided with interdisciplinary mentoring in health policy research. This helps prepare them for influential careers as nurse scientists and advocates, whether they find themselves working in the hospital, the university, the boardroom, or the statehouse.

Faculty work with interdisciplinary partners at the local, state, and national levels to develop and evaluate health policy interventions to improve the health of the public. This interdisciplinary health services research broadens students’ educational experiences and expands knowledge about how health care systems work. The CHP’s research informs policies aimed at improving the availability, affordability, safety, and effectiveness of health care nationwide.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR

NEW AND CONTINUING GRANTS

In FY 2018, the CHP was an active participant in obtaining more than $8 million in federal and foundation funding. Selected grant titles and brief synopsis are below:

5T32NR014205-07 Comparative and Cost-Effectiveness Research Training for Nurse Scientists (CER²) (Stone and Pincus, MPI). This grant provides an opportunity to train nurse scientists in comparative and cost-effectiveness research, fields of scientific inquiry that employ innovative methods to generate knowledge aimed at improving quality and efficiency by informing the everyday decisions confronting clinicians, patients, purchasers and policy makers.
P20NR018072 Center for Improving Palliative Care for Vulnerable Adults with MCC (CIPC) (Stone and Topaz, MPI). The CIPC provides expert guidance to nurse scientists in becoming leaders of interdisciplinary research teams that generate knowledge to inform how best to provide vulnerable adults with multiple chronic conditions with palliative care that is consistent with their personal preferences and reduces burdensome treatments and transitions.

R01NR013687 Study of Infection Management and Palliative Care at End-of-Life (SIMP-EL) (Stone PI). In nursing homes, antibiotics are overused and residents are often transferred to hospital for infections. Both may be burdensome, offer limited clinical benefit and are not consistent with palliative care goals. Understanding how best to integrate infection management and palliative care would improve nursing home care and is the focus of this research.

R01NR016865 Infection Prevention in Home Health Care (InHOME) (Shang and Stone, MPI). The goals of this projects are to: 1) examine HAI rates and compare the characteristics of HHC agencies with high and low rates; 2) using multiple methods, describe the current infection prevention and control policies and practices being implemented in HHC agencies; 3) compare the effectiveness of currently practiced infection prevention and control structures and processes in preventing HAIs in elderly Medicare patients; and 4) estimate the health (i.e., survival) and resource utilization outcomes attributable to HAI in elderly Medicare patients.

5R01NR017206-02 Hydroxyurea Adherence for Personal Best in Sickle Cell Treatment: HABIT (Green, Smaldone, Co-PIs). HABIT is a five-site, four-year randomized control trial with overall goals of reducing barriers to Hydroxyurea use and improving medication adherence for youth 10-18 years with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) through creation of a daily medication habit. The goal of the proposed multi-site study is to test the efficacy of the HABIT intervention at 6 months and sustainability of the effect at 12 months. The importance of the problem of poor medication adherence, use of community health workers to bridge the gap between health services and underserved parent-youth dyads affected by SCD, the strength of the science, the success of our multi-ethnic feasibility study and the potential application of study findings to youth with other serious chronic illnesses speak to the importance of this trial.

Alliance for Home Health Quality and Innovation (Home Health Agencies in the Changing Policy Environment) (Shang and Stone, MPI). This innovative study has the potential to make important clinical and policy relevant contributions by identifying best practices in home health agencies and informing the care received by the millions of Americans using these services.

**EDUCATING NURSES IN HEALTH POLICY**

**AACN Student Policy Summit**
Columbia Nursing PhD students Cilgy Abraham and Natalie Voigt and DNP student Meredith Peeke participated in the March 2018 AACN Student Policy Summit. They presented an overview of their experience to students enrolled in N7005 Health and Social Policy in the Context of Practice.

**Annual Capital Day**
Stephen Ferrara, DNP, led more than 150 nurse practitioners and NP students (including Columbia Nursing students) from across New
York State to Albany on April 17 to meet with lawmakers and urge passage of legislation that could positively impact patients and families.

**CER² T32 Current Trainees**

Billy Caceres, PhD, RN, AGPCNP-BC, completed training in intervention design at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, cardiovascular epidemiology at the American Heart Association’s Ten Day Seminar on Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Prevention, and genetics at the National Institute of Nursing Research’s Summer Genetics Institute. He received the 2017 Martha N. Hill New Investigator Award at the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions for his dissertation research on cardiovascular disease risk in lesbian and bisexual women. Dr. Caceres was invited to serve on panels on “Intersectional Perspectives on Social Justice and Health Equity” at the American Academy of Nursing’s 2017 Health Policy Conference and “Cardiovascular Care of Vulnerable Populations” at the American Heart Association’s 2018 Scientific Sessions.

Caroline Handschuh’s dissertation title is “Peer and parental relationships and their association with adolescent sexual behavior.”

Aluem Tark received first place for student posters at the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) 30th Annual Scientific sessions. Her dissertation topic is palliative care in nursing home residence.

**Additional CHP Current Trainees**

Richard Dorritie’s dissertation topic is public health legal epidemiology and associated healthcare infections in nursing homes.

Meghan Murray was accepted to the highly competitive and prestigious Graduate Partnerships Program at NINR. She was also selected as a recipient of the 2018 David J. Sencer Scholarship to support travel to the 2018 Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference in Atlanta, GA.

Cilgy Abraham was selected as a New York Academy of Medicine Summer 2018 Margaret E. Mahoney Fellow in Health Policy.

**CER² Alumni**

Catherine Cohen, PhD, RN is an associate policy research at the RAND Corporation. Her focus is improving population health through research and policy.

Elizabeth Heitkemper, PhD, RN (Department of Biomedical Informatics), Kasey Jackman, MS, RN, PMHNP-BC (Columbia Nursing), and Allison Norful, PhD, RN, ANP-BC (Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research) are Columbia University Medical Center postdoctoral research scientists.

Sara Iribarren, PhD, RN, University of Washington Assistant Professor, received funding for Development and Evaluation of an Interactive Mobile Health Intervention to Support Patients with Active Tuberculosis (1K23NR017210-01).

Krista Schroeder, PhD, RN completed her T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research on Vulnerable Women, Children, and Families at University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She will begin a tenure-track assistant professor position at Temple University College of Public Health.

Jasmine Travers, PhD, AGNP-C, RN, CCRN, served as a Jonas Policy Scholar for the American Academy of Nursing Environmental and Public Health Expert Panel. She received a stipend to attend the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research Summer Training Workshop on African American Aging Research at University of Michigan. Dr. Travers received pilot funds from the Frank Morgan Jones Fund and Penn School of Nursing Faculty Grant Award to study the Access and use of
Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) for racial/ethnic minority older adults. She published or had accepted four first-authored manuscripts and presented her findings at two national and one regional conference. She is co-chair and co-founder of the ENRS’s Health Services Research Interest Group. Dr. Travers will be entering the National Clinician Scholars Program at Yale University School of Medicine as a Nurse Scholar Fellow.

**ACTIVITIES 2017-2018**

**Products and Dissemination**


“Understanding the Use of Economic Evaluations in Clinical Research.” Graduate Nursing Student Academy, AACN Webinar, March 2018, Stone.

**Selected Publications**


Kub, J, Kulbok, P, Miner, S, and **Merrill, J.A.** (2017). Increasing the capacity of public health nursing to strengthen the public health infrastructure and to promote and protect the health of communities and populations. *Nursing Outlook* 65(5): 661-4


Smaldone, A., Findley, S., Manwani, D., Jia, H., Green, N.S.. HABIT, a feasibility trial to improve hydroxyurea adherence, suggests improved health related quality of life in youth with sickle cell disease, The Journal of Pediatrics, 197:177-185


Forums and Presentations
Academy Health (Seattle, June 2018)
“The Cost Effectiveness of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Chronic Disease Management of Adult Patients: A Systematic Review” (Cilgy Abraham, poster)
“Integrating of Infection Management in Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments (POLST)” (Aluem Tark, poster)
“Legal Epidemiology of Nursing Practice and Population Health: An Integrative Review” (Richard Dorritie, poster)
“New Insights on Scope of Practice for NPs and CRNAs” (Allison Norful, podium session)
“Integration of Infection Management in Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments (POLST)” (poster, SIMPEL project director Mansi Agarwal, PhD)

ENRS 30th Annual Scientific Sessions (Newark, April 2018)
“Implementation of an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Two Pediatric Long-Term Care Facilities” (Meghan Murray, paper session)
“The Potential for Dissemination of a Diabetes Self-Management Technology Innovation into Clinical Practice” (Elizabeth Heitkemper, paper session)
“Associations Between Models of End-of-Life Care and Acute Care Utilization Among U.S. Nursing Home Residents: A Systematic Review” (Aluem Tark, poster)
“Is There an Association Between Adolescent Sexting and Sexual Behaviors? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis?” (Caroline Handschuh, poster)
“Legal Epidemiology of Nursing Practice and Population Health: An Integrative Review” (Richard Dorritie, poster)
“Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs in New Jersey: A Three-Year Trend Analysis” (Cilgy Abraham, poster)
“Nonsuicidal Self-Injury Among Transgender People: A Mixed Methods Investigation” (Kasey Jackman, symposium session)
“Assessing the Potential of a Diabetes Self-Management Technology Intervention for Underserved Adults” (symposium session)
“Peer Guidance for Successful Navigation of the Early Career Nurse Scientist Journey” (Richard Dorritie and Meghan Murray, symposium session)
“Sexual Orientation, Sleep Duration, and Cardiovascular Disease” (Billy Caceres, paper session)
“Emerging Methodologies to Overcome Complexities in Health Services Research and Policy Analysis Development and Psychometric Evaluation of the Provider Co-management Index (PCMI)” (Allison Norful, symposium session)

CHP and PriSSM hosted Brian Mittman, PhD, Senior Scientist, Kaiser Permanente Department of Research and Evaluation and Co-Lead, UCLA CTSI Implementation and Improvement Science Initiative PCORI Engagement, Dissemination, and Implementation Committee, Methodology Committee, who presented “Improving the Study of Complex Interventions in Health: Background and Goals of the New PCORI Methods Standards” on May 21 at Columbia Nursing.

**Sponsorship**

CHP provided sponsorship for the Academy Health Interdisciplinary Research Group on Nursing Issues (IRGNI) and the Greater New York Hospital Association 29th Annual Symposium on Health Care Services in New York.
Faculty activities
Stephen Ferrara, DNP, presented the keynote “Understanding the Latest New York State Nurse Practitioner Workforce Data and its Health Policy Implications” at the Nurse Practitioner Association New York State Region 2 Symposium (Waterloo, NY). He presented “Health Policy Updates You Need to Know” at the Mount Sinai Heart Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Symposium (New York, NY) and “Transforming Advanced Practice Education” at the DNP Summit (Rochester, NY).

Elaine Larson, PhD, RN, FAAN, CIC, is a member of the President’s Advisory Council to Combat Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (2018-2020) and of the Planning Committee, Fifth Decennial Conference on Healthcare-Associated Infections, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2018-2020).

Jacqueline Merrill, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, FACMI, was appointed for a second term on the AACN Health Policy Advisory Committee as well as the AcademyHealth Health Services Research Information Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Environmental and Public Health Expert Panel at AAN and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee at the American College of Medical Informatics. Dr. Merrill serves on the Columbia University Data Science Institute Health Analytics Center Steering Committee and the Public Health Enumeration Group at University of Michigan School of Public Health Center of Excellence in Public Health Workforce Studies. She is co-investigator in the Region II Public Health Training Center at the Mailman School of Public Health (Murrman, PI) and is developing training for public health workers on integrating system science concepts in public health work.

Lusine Poghosyan, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN was awarded R01 funding from NIMHD to study NP practice in relation to health disparities as well as funding from NCSBN to study how scope of practice law change in New York State affects NP supply, practice, and Medicaid costs in the state. In addition, she submitted a new AHRQ R01 which is currently under funding consideration pending. In addition, to her national efforts, Dr. Poghosyan delivered a keynote at Chinese Nurses Association’s Annual meeting for Nursing Administration.

Jingjing Shang, PhD, RN, served as grant reviewer for multiple organizations including the American Cancer Society Peer Review Committee on Scholarship in Oncology Nursing and the Netherlands Organization of Health, Research and Development (ZonMw). Dr. Shang presented at a national conference in China on the topic of big data and nursing.

Arlene Smaldone, PhD, RN was awarded R01 funding from NINR to conduct a multi-site randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of HABIT, a community health worker intervention augmented by tailored text messages to improve adherence to hydroxyurea in youth 10-18 years of age with sickle cell disease. She presented findings of the R21 trial to test the feasibility of the HABIT intervention at the American Society of Hematology Scientific Sessions and at the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America where she was awarded Best Clinical Research abstract. She also presented Dissemination of PhD dissertation research by dissertation format type: A retrospective cohort study as part of a symposium on that topic at the 30th Annual ENRS Scientific Sessions, Newark, NJ. April 11-13, 2018.
**ACTIVITIES 2018-2019**

Center for Improving Palliative Care for Vulnerable Adults with MCC (CIPC) Enrichment Program funding activities include offering fall seminars and a spring foundational workshop.

Our rescheduled event (due to spring 2018 weather cancelation) “Serving Those who Serve Our Country: Health Care Priorities for the VA, Public Health, and the Tri-Services” will be held October 30 in collaboration with the Columbia Nursing Alumni Office.

In addition to the rescheduled we are planning a fall or spring Health Policy presentation.

CER2 has expanded to add three additional postdoctoral fellows in summer and an additional predoctoral trainee in fall.

CHP plans to continue sponsorship of the AACN Student Policy Summit, IRGNI, and GNYHA.

CHP is partnering with the Columbia Nursing Alumni Office, OSR, the PRISSM Center, and the PhD program to host a fall presentation by Jeannette Wing, PhD, Professor of Computer Science and Avanessians Director of the Data Science Institute, titled “Data for Good in Nursing and Healthcare.”