

**48th Annual Rural Health Conference  
10th Rural Hospital Innovation Summit  
May 20-23, 2025 – Atlanta, GA  
*Agenda***

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

**5 – 7 p.m.**

**Exhibit Hall Welcome**

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

**7 – 8 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**8 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Opening Session & Keynote**

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**1A**

**Rural-Urban Differences in Treat-and-Release Emergency Department Utilization and Costs for Dental Conditions**

Rural residents had the highest dental treat-and-release emergency department visit rates, averaging \$1,266.00 in charges per visit. This disparity highlights the lack of access to routine dental care in rural areas, leading individuals to seek emergency care for dental conditions. This study explores rural-urban differences in utilization and costs for dental conditions.

**Leveraging Leadership in Literacy to Address Head and Neck Cancer Disparities through Public Librarians**

This session will explore a community-centered approach to improving health literacy for head and neck cancer prevention in South Carolina, prioritizing rural and safety-net communities. By partnering with public librarians and oral health stakeholders, the study identifies key resources and best practices, positioning librarians as vital assets in reducing cancer health disparities.

**1B**

**Changes in Rural Nursing Home Staffing and Quality**

**TBD**

*Michael Wirth, PhD, College of Nursing, University of South Carolina, Assistant Professor*

*Nicholas Yell, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina,*

*Hari Sharma, PhD, University of Iowa, Assistant Professor*

*Elizabeth Crouch, PhD, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, Associate Professor*

Both nursing staff turnover and adverse quality measurements have increased over time in rural nursing homes, compared to their urban counterparts. This session will examine these changes as well as describing rural-urban differences in staffing turnover rates in nursing homes and how nursing home facility characteristics are changing over time.

#### **1C**

##### **Age-Friendly Care Settings for Rural Older Adults: The National Rural Age-Friendly Initiative's 4Ms and the CHW Training Program**

**TBD**

#### **1D**

##### **MMIW: Addressing Ongoing Disparities and Injustice Today**

**TBD**

*Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, ATSU College of Graduate Health Studies, Chair & Professor*

*Marsha Presley, PhD, MPH, ATSU College of Graduate Health Studies, Research Associate & Adjunct Faculty*

This session addresses the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), highlighting the disproportionate violence they face. MMIW reflects systemic injustices including inadequate law enforcement, media neglect, and insufficient resources, and exacerbates intergenerational trauma. The session will also explore potential solutions to combat these ongoing issues.

#### **1E**

##### **Community Apgar Recruitment and Retention: Partnering for Rural Workforce**

**TBD**

*David Schmitz, MD, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine*

*Mark Barclay, MS, CPRP, 3RNET, 3RNET Director of Member Services*

*Stacy Kusler, B.A, CPRP, UND Center for Rural health, Workforce Specialist*

The Community Apgar set of projects has increased in scope and geography for more than a decade to include recruitment and retention of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and CEOs to rural hospitals, rural health clinics and rural FQHCs. This update will provide an overview of recent projects and research outcomes.

#### **1F**

## **Driving Change: Meeting Transportation Needs in Rural Communities - FORHP**

*TBD*

### **RHIS – Operations Track**

#### **Lessons Learned from Maine's Rural Maternity Crisis**

**TBD**

*Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH, MaineHealth, MaineHealth Chief Health Improvement Officer*

*Caroline Zimmerman, MPP, MaineHealth, Director of Child and Family Health at MaineHealth*

Learn how all of Maine's rural maternity hospitals joined together to address the crises of over one-third of Maine's rural hospitals having closed their maternity units and the health needs of rural perinatal patients, using a federal Health Resources and Services Administration RMOMS (Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies) grant.

### **RHIS – Innovations Track**

#### **Communicating the Disadvantage of Medicare Advantage**

**TBD**

*Stephanie Limb, Groundswell Health, Senior Partner*

*Lance Lunsford, FACHE, Groundswell Health, Senior Partner*

*Melissa Lackey, RN, A&M Rural and Community Health Institute | Texas A&M Health, Director, Technical Assistance*

*Matthew Borchardt, CLA, principal*

Presentation will cover a multi-rural Texas hospital Medicare Advantage (MA) education & advocacy campaign to 1) educate consumers about the potential downfalls of selecting MA over Traditional Medicare and 2) educate lawmakers and other influencers on MA's negative impacts on rural hospitals' finances and providers and need for policy reform.

## **1G**

### **Contributed Research Papers – Veterans Health**

- **Rural-Urban Differences in Veterans' Use of Services to Support Aging in Place**  
*Heather Davila, PhD, MPA, Investigator, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Iowa City, Veterans Health Administration*
- **Implementing Telehealth Mindfulness for Rural Veteran Suicide Prevention**  
*Alejandro Interian, PhD, Psychologist, VA New Jersey Healthcare System*
- **Whole Health Program Targeting Rural Caregivers Improves Outcomes**  
*Christopher A. Fowler, Ph.D., Health Science Specialist, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics*
- **Healthcare Navigation for Native Veterans: Successes and Lessons**  
*Jenniferr Freytag, PhD, JD, Health Science Specialist, Veterans Health Administration*

**10:45 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Poster Session/Break**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Plenary Session – HRSA Rural Health Update**

This session will provide updates regarding key federal activities that help improve access to quality health care in rural communities.

**12:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Lunch**

**1:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Student Track Session/Student Constituency Group Meeting**

**2:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**2A**

**Mental Health Prevalence, Providers and Services Among Rural Youth**

**Room TBD**

*Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Deputy Director & Research Scientist Principal*

*Janessa Graves, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Director*

There is heightened concern nationally about youth mental health. We will present findings on the national prevalence of mental health disorders among rural youth, the distribution of youth mental health care providers, and the behavioral health care services received and distance travelled by youth covered by commercial and Medicaid insurance.

**Increase Capacity: Addressing Children's Mental Health in Primary Care**

**Room TBD**

*Julia Matakis, MPH, Senior Manager, Mental Health Programs*

*Rosalinda Saucedo, MS, CHES, American Academy of Pediatrics, Program Manager, Rural Health*

*Joie Frankovich, LCSW, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Manager, Mental Health Initiatives*

The American Academy of Pediatrics provides training and technical assistance to primary care clinicians to ensure they have the knowledge, skill, and confidence needed to respond to mental/behavioral health concerns they see. Specific examples, lessons learned, and the impact on pediatric mental health practice in rural/frontier communities will be discussed.

## **2B**

### **The Promise and Pitfalls of Alternative Delivery Modalities**

#### **TBD**

*Michele Stanek, MHS, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Associate Director*

*Andrea Mitchell, MPH, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Manager*

*Kevin Bennett, PhD, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Director*

*Samantha Renaud, MA, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Manager*

Improved access to quality primary care has long been a goal for rural communities. The pandemic accelerated the use of new modalities of care, including telemedicine and mobile healthcare. We'll discuss how these modalities are implemented, their impact on rural communities, and the potential negative tradeoffs for primary care.

## **2C**

### **Meeting Rural People Where They Are**

#### **Room TBD**

*Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, Director*

*Leah Gagnon, Inspire Health Foundation at the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Director*

Learn how rural health providers are leveraging resources from community partners, foundations, and the private and public sectors to address patients' needs – food, housing, and transportation. Find out how the economic vitality of rural communities improves when social determinants of health are addressed. Resources and tools will be highlighted.

## **2D**

### **Exploring Rural Parent Perspectives on Routine Childhood Vaccination**

#### **Room TBD**

*Veronica Gilliard, PhD, MPH, MEd, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Communications Specialist*

*Erin Glotzer, MPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Communications Specialist*

*Angela Tripp, MPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Communications Specialist*

This presentation explores knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs on routine childhood vaccination through findings from 2023 focus groups with parents living in rural Midwestern and Southern communities who have children under age seven. These focus groups helped inform Keeps it that Way, CDC's new communications effort to promote routine childhood vaccination.

### **Rural Adult Immunization Pilot Project**

## **Room TBD**

*Lindsey Haynes-Maslow, PhD, MHA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Associate Professor*

*Shelley Miller, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing, Assistant Professor*

*Beth O'Connor, M.Ed, Virginia Rural Health Association, Executive Director*

*Abby Gold, PhD, MPH, RD, University of Minnesota, Health & Nutrition Extension Specialist*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention partnered with Extension Foundation and National Rural Health Association to implement promising strategies for increasing vaccine confidence and uptake across three states in rural pilot sites with a targeted effort to engage the community by collaborating with Extension professionals and NRHA's provider members.

## **2E**

### **Rural Rotations Reimagined: Interprofessional Collaboration and Community Engage**

#### **Room TBD**

*Kelly Cochran, PharmD, BCPS, University of Missouri-School of Medicine-Columbia/Community Health Network, Adjunct Assistant Professor; Director of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy*

*Linda Rucker, MU School of Medicine Rural Scholars Program, Office of Health, Outreach, Policy, and Education (HOPE), Program/Project Support Coordinator*

A 5-year review of Clinical Rural Immersion, an innovative model to engage health profession students, from rural and urban backgrounds, in rural clerkships and experiences to increase interest in rural clinical practice. Speakers will discuss activities, approaches to improve student engagement, and strategies to align the experience with course competencies.

### **The New Reality: Workforce Training Done Virtually**

#### **Room TBD**

*Dwain Harris, MHA, National AHEC Organization, Chief Executive Officer*

*David Gross, MHA, Northeast KY AHEC, Director*

*Sarah Matter, Montana Hospital Association, South Central Montana AHEC Program Specialist*

*Reed Elkington, Transfr Virtual Reality, Healthcare Team Lead*

Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) are uniquely positioned to cultivate rural healthcare professionals. Through a U.S. Department of Labor grant, AHECs in seven states are leveraging community partnerships and using virtual reality technology (which will be demonstrated during the session) to provide access to educational, career exploration, and employment opportunities.

## **2F**

### **FORHP Policy Update**

**Room TBD**

*Speakers TBD.*

Session description TBD.

**RHIS - Operations Track: The Rural Oncology Home Model****Room TBD**

*Wade Swenson, MD, MPH, MBA, Rural Cancer Institute, Founder*

*Emily Westergard, DO, Rural Cancer Institute, Co-Founder*

*Zach Schroeder, BA, Rural Cancer Institute, Co-Founder*

The Rural Oncology Home Model addresses cancer care access challenges in rural regions. The model centralizes services within a critical access hospital, emphasizing local care management and palliative support. It benefits from collaborations with regional health centers and local partners underscoring a shift toward localized care.

**RHIS - Innovations Track: Alternative Payment Models for Rural Hospitals: Assembly Required****Room TBD**

*April Ferrino, TX Health and Human Services Commission, Director, Office of Rural Hospital Finance & Coordination*

The federal Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model was an unsuccessful alternative payment model for rural hospitals, yet two very different states were able to use the Model's momentum to make positive impacts in rural communities. Texas and Washington will share takeaways that other states could replicate.

**2G****Contributed Research Papers – Maternal & Child Health**

- **Rural-urban risk progression during pregnancy, South Carolina Medicaid**  
*Songyuan Deng, PhD, Associate Scientist, University of South Carolina*
- **State Policies and Rural/Urban Differences in Midwife-Attended Births**  
*Emily Sheffield, MPH, Doctoral Candidate, University of Minnesota School of Public Health*
- **Rural-urban differences in postpartum parent-infant dyad healthcare access**  
*Julia Interrante, PhD, MPH, Research Fellow/Statistical Lead, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center*
- **Driving Distance Trends to Maine's Birthing Hospitals**  
*Lexi Wilhelmsen, MPH, CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists/Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention*

**3:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Poster Session/Break**

**4:00 – 5:15 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**3A**

**Rural Disparities in Cancer Incidence, Screening and Utilization**

**Room TBD**

*Cassie Odahowski, PhD, Rural and Minority Health Research Center, University of South Carolina, Research Assistant Professor*

*Whitney Zahnd, PhD, RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, University of Iowa, Deputy Director*

*Gabriel Benavidez, PhD, Department of Public Health, Baylor University, Assistant Professor*

*Nicholas Yell, PhD, Rural and Minority Health Research Center, University of South Carolina, Doctoral Research Assistant*

This session will include: 1) describe pre and post COVID trends in rural disparities in cancer incidence and screening; 2) discussion of how 2021 US Preventive Services Task Force changes to lung cancer screening recommendations impact rural screening eligibility and utilization; 3) implications for rural healthcare providers, systems, and communities.

**3B**

**Serving Rural Veterans: Coordinating Care in Rural Communities**

**Room TBD**

*Peter Kaboli, MD, MS, Department of Veterans Affairs, Executive Director, VA Office of Rural Health*

*David Walker, MD, MBA, FACHE, Veterans Health Administration, Network Director, VISN 7 (Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina)*

Rural Veterans receive care in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and their communities. Coordinating care can challenge Veterans, caregivers, VHA, and rural healthcare systems. Facilitating medical record exchange, scheduling specialty care, connecting to benefits, and timely reimbursement can optimize health outcomes for rural Veterans and support their communities.

**VA/FQHC Partnerships for Shared Care of Rural Veterans**

**Room TBD**

*Carolyn Turvey, Ph.D., Veterans Health Administration, Clinical Director, VA Office of Rural Health Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Iowa City*

*Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Associate Research Scientist*



*Matthew Bryant Howren, Ph.D., Iowa City VA Health Care System, Core Investigator*  
*Michael Ohl, MD, Iowa City VA Healthcare System, Staff Physician*

Three programs facilitate care of rural Veterans between VA and FQHCs/CAHs. One trains community coordinators to identify and address veterans' unmet medical and social/financial needs. Another develops telemedicine for cancer survivorship coordination between VA oncologists and community providers. Another describes a telemedicine consultation service between VA and CAH acute care.

### **3C**

#### **Bridging Divides: Closing the Health Equity Broadband Gap**

**TBD**

*Alison Arnold, Ed.D., Central Michigan University College of Medicine, Executive Director Rural Health Equity Institute*

Many rural communities experience compounding challenges of broadband and health access gaps. Broadband deserts and health care deserts often overlap and deprive community members from connecting to health care, social services, civic resources, employment, and educational opportunities. This session will examine Social and Structural Drivers of Health (SDOH), discuss Digital Inclusion as a SUPER Driver of Health, and will spotlight innovative ways communities

### **3D**

#### **An Integrated CHW-Navigator Model for Reentry**

**TBD**

*Deb Koester, PhD, DNP, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University, Assistant Professor, Director of Community Health*  
*Bev Sharp, B.S. (Criminal Just), The REACH Initiative, Executive Director*  
*Kim Tieman, MSW, ACSW, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Vice President and Program Director for Health*

Many incarcerated have chronic health conditions, which worsen during incarceration and upon release due to barriers to care, especially in rural communities. This model integrates a community health worker and peer navigator in rural Appalachia to address healthcare, social, and community reentry needs to improve outcomes and reduce costs.

#### **Leveraging Grants and Partnerships to Support Rural CHWs**

**TBD**

*Denaé Hebert, MBA/HCA, CHC, CRHCP, Louisiana Rural Health Association, Executive Director*  
*Michael Jackson, Louisiana Office of Public Health, Grants & Training Manager*

This presentation will review the Community HealthWays Program Community Health Worker model within the Louisiana Department of Health, including how federal funding was leveraged to establish and expand the Program. We will then examine the Program's partnerships with the Louisiana Rural Health Association to expand the scope and impact.

### **3E**

#### **Planning for the Future Rural Nursing Workforce**

**TBD**

*Qian Huang, Ph.D., MA, MPA, East Tennessee State University, Research Assistant Professor*

*Casey Balio, Ph.D., East Tennessee State University, Research Assistant Professor*

*Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Deputy Director*

*Janessa Graves, PhD, MPH, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Co-Director*

Explore the current landscape of the rural nursing workforce across multiple dimensions, geographies, and settings. We will then discuss how to use these tools with innovative solutions and collaborative strategies to address the unique challenges faced by the nursing workforce in rural communities.

#### **Rural Roots: Growing Nurses through Community Engagement**

**TBD**

*Aspen Drude, MBA, University of Texas at Arlington, Director, Center for Rural Health and Nursing*

*SuLynn Mester, DNP, MSN, RHCNOC, RN, University of Texas at Arlington, Clinical Assistant Professor & Liaison Team Member*

This session will highlight strategies for fostering local nurses in rural areas through university-community partnerships (specifically through the University of Texas at Arlington's liaison team). It will explore initiatives to enhance education, support, and retention, ensuring healthcare sustainability within hometown settings.

### **3F**

#### **Aligning Health and Social Needs: New Medicare Services (FORHP)**

**Room TBD**

*Speakers TBD*

Session description TBD.

#### **RHIS – Operations Track**

#### **Critical Access Hospital Swing Bed Quality Outcomes Data**

**TBD**

*Lindsay Corcoran, MHA, Stroudwater Associates, Principal*

In partnership with the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, Stroudwater developed the national standard for Critical Access Hospital swing bed quality outcome measures. Since 2018, hospitals have been collecting and submitting swing bed patient-level data elements. This presentation will review performance trends and share best practice hospital spotlights.

## **RHIS – Innovations Track**

### **Maintaining Independence through Interdependence - Rural Hospital CINS**

#### **TBD**

*Ben Bucher, FNP-BC, MBA, LNHA, Towner County Medical Center, CEO*

*Brittany Sachdeva, Chief Clinical Officer, Cibolo Health*

*Alfred Sams, President, Rough Rider High Value Network*

Two states, and others in discussions, have created high value networks (HVN) in their states composed of rural, independent hospital systems. These HVN models, composed of a clinically integrated network and shared services, transform the future of viability for their rural health systems and pave a way to achieve value-based care.

## **3G**

### **Contributed Research Papers – Clinical**

- **Collaborations in Addressing WV's Oral Health Problems: Beneficial?**  
*Richard Crout, DMD, PhD, Professor Emeritus, West Virginia University School of Dentistry*
- **Implementation Study of Care Model for Rural Patients with Chronic Pain**  
*Erika Steinbacher, MD, Associate Professor, Dept of Family Medicine, Wake Forest School of Medicine*
- **Provider Density and Rural Cardiovascular Disease Mortality**  
*Eashwar Krishna, NREMT, Student, University of Connecticut*

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Constituency Group Meetings and Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:15 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

## **4A**

**Optimizing Rural Pain Care**

**Room TBD**

*Travis Lovejoy, PhD, MPH, VHA Office of Rural Health, Clinical Director, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center*

*Rena E. Courtney, PhD, PREVAIL Center for Chronic Pain, Salem VA Health Care System, Program Director*

*John Evans, BA, VA Eastern Colorado Health Systems Research Center of Innovation, Health Science Specialist and Program Manager, Vet-to-Vet Chronic Pain Program*

Despite increased availability of evidence-based approaches for pain management, many patients who reside in rural areas receive suboptimal pain treatment. This workshop will present three innovative models of rural pain care that have been tested in the Veterans Health Administration: (1) shared appointments, (2) care coordination, and (3) peer support.

#### **4B**

##### **Rural Hospital Sustainability through Clinically Integrated Networks**

**TBD**

*Shena Popat, MHA, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, Senior Research Scientist*

*Paul Aslin, MHA, Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals Clinically Integrated Network, Executive Director*

*Alfred Sams, MA, Rough Rider High Value Network, President*

*Reyann Davis, MPH, Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institute, Director Value-Based Care*

The Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH) Clinically Integrated Network and Rough Rider High Value Network were recently formed to facilitate rural provider participation in alternative payment models. This panel will explore the formation and operation of these networks, with a focus on lessons learned and future opportunities.

#### **4C**

##### **Addressing the Challenge of Rural Pharmacy Closures**

**TBD**

*David Nau, PhD, RPh, Raabe College of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University, Professor*

*Stuart Beatty, PharmD, Raabe College of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University, Dean*

*Emily Eddy, PharmD, Raabe College of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University, Associate Professor*

*Michelle Musser, PharmD, Raabe College of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University, Professor*

Over 7,000 pharmacies have closed in the past decade leaving many rural communities with decreased access to medications, immunizations and pharmacist services. This session will describe how communities can maintain access to pharmacist services and will describe how novel services are being deployed in rural Ohio.

##### **Bridging Medication Disparities in Rural Healthcare**

#### **Room TBD**

*Stephanie Kiser, RPh, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Executive Director, Rural Pharmacy Health Initiative*

*Nicole Allen, DO, Mountain Community Health Partnership - FQHC, Family Medicine Physician - Bakersville Health Center*

*Emily Owens, PharmD, CPP, Bakersville Health Center, Mountain Community Health Partnership, Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner*

What barriers to optimal medication use exist for residents in rural WNC? What facilitates health improvement related to medications? These questions will be answered in this presentation of a patient-centered, interprofessional, multifactorial, regional medication needs assessment. Recommendations for further opportunities to improve health outcomes and medication optimization will be shared.

#### **4D**

##### **Securing a Better Future for Rural Health**

#### **Room TBD**

*Keith Mueller, University of Iowa, Director, Rural Policy Research Institute*

*Brock Slabach, Chief Operating Officer*

*JT Douglas, West Health Foundation, Director of Strategy*

This session will present the results of a special summit in November 2024 to develop a comprehensive vision for the future of rural health, convened by three partner organizations: Rural Policy Research Institute, National Rural Health Association, and West Health. Speakers will describe results and next steps.

#### **4E**

##### **Medicare Policy Impacts on Rural Mental Health Workforce**

#### **TBD**

*Janessa Graves, PhD MPH, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Director*

*Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Deputy Director*

Recent Medicare policy expanded reimbursement eligibility (effective 01/01/2024) for marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to address behavioral health workforce shortages. This panel presents research on workforce changes and key informant interview results and discusses barriers and solutions to fully leveraging the new policy in rural settings.

#### **4F**

##### **Efforts to Support Rural Maternal Health (FORHP)**

#### **Room TBD**

*Speakers TBD*

Description TBD

## **RHIS – Operations Track**

### **RHIS – Innovations Track**

#### **Strategies for Strengthening Existing Partnerships**

##### **Room TBD**

*Jeffrey Sommer, MPP, Stroudwater Associates, Managing Director*

*Clare Kelley, MPH, Stroudwater Associates, Senior Consultant*

Approximately 60% of rural hospitals are in larger systems. Enhancing existing partnerships to recognize the value of rural affiliates and achieve the value potential of the partnership is essential. Case studies and a framework for operationalizing and enhancing rural value within systems will be shared with participants.

## **4G**

### **Contributed Research Papers – Workforce & Recruitment**

- **Integration of Community Health Workers in Rural Cross-sector Collaboratives**  
*Kristina Ormond, MPH, AUD, Georgia Health Policy Center/ GSU*
- **How many students?! Rapid, Rural, Research and Education**  
*Diana Campanella Schow, PhD, MHE, MA, Associate Professor, Idaho State University*
- **Training Rural Providers in Treatment of Opioid-Use Disorder**  
*Gail Rose, PhD, Assistant Professor, UVM*

**10:15 – 10:45 a.m.**

**Poster Session/Break**

**10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

## **5A**

### **Primary Care Strategies to Address Rural Specialist Gaps**

##### **Rooms TBD**

*Rosemary Motz, MPH, MA, RDN, Moses/Weitzman Health System, Senior Program Manager at the Weitzman Institute*

*Benjamin D. Anderson, MBA, MHCDS, Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, President and Chief Executive Officer*

*Daren Anderson, MD, Moses/Weitzman Health System, VP/Chief Quality Officer of Community Health Center, Inc. and President of ConferMED*

Specialty care is limited in rural communities—with 30 specialists per 100,000 people, versus 263 in urban settings. Primary care providers are often more accessible and may fill specialty gaps within their scope. This panel of interprofessional healthcare leaders explores innovative strategies for rural primary care to deliver specialty services.

### **The Stroke Care Crisis in Rural America**

#### **TBD**

*Timothy Schoonover, DO, FACN, Dayton Center for Neurological Disorders, Kettering Health Stroke Medical Director*

Stroke mortality rates are higher in rural areas. Proximity to care matters, but management of stroke patients can be improved. Policymakers, neurosurgeons and front-line staff discuss how to close the gaps in stroke care. This includes educating EMS providers and patients, standardizing protocols and building relationships with other providers.

#### **5B**

### **Using AI To Improve Rural Patient Care**

#### **Room TBD**

*Randall Brandt, PA-C, Mile Bluff Medical Center, Physician Assistant, Lead Advanced Practice Clinician*

Mile Bluff Medical Center recently deployed a new AI solution that has fundamentally transformed how clinicians at the Mauston, Wisconsin based organization use relevant information from multiple sources to make the best care decisions for their patients, reducing the cognitive burden that providers typically experience when manually searching for data.

#### **5C**

### **Effective Rural Programs to Prevent Unintentional Injuries**

#### **Room TBD**

*Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC at the University of Chicago, Senior Fellow*

*Kristine Sande, Rural Health Information Hub, Program Director*

*Jaime Sullivan, National Center for Rural Road Safety, Director*

*Jane Strommen, PhD, North Dakota State University, Gerontology Specialist and Assistant Professor of Practice*

*Cynthia Goss, MA, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City Population Specialist*

Learn about the new Rural Unintentional Injury Prevention Toolkit, featuring practical information and effective program models to reduce injuries and deaths developed by the Rural Health Information Hub and NORC Walsh Center. Two rural implementers will share successful strategies for program planning, evaluation, funding, and sustainability.

## **5D**

### **Aging and Caregiving in Rural America**

#### **Room TBD**

*Elizabeth Crouch, University of South Carolina, Director, Associate Professor*

*Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, University of Minnesota, Associate Professor*

*Peiyin Hung, PhD, University of South Carolina, Associate Professor, Deputy Director*

*Emma Boswell, MPH, University of South Carolina, Research Associate*

Population aging, the proportion of the population aged 65 plus, is increasing much more in rural areas than urban. A comprehensive examination of aging and caregiving challenges for rural residents has been limited. This session will examine rural-urban differences in aging and caregiving status by both researchers and practitioners.

### **Tools to Develop Rural Multisector Plans for Aging**

#### **Room TBD**

*Pauline DeLange Martinez, PhD, MA, UC Davis, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, Family Caregiving Institute, Research & Community Engagement Manager*

The Rural Multisector Plan for Aging (MPA) Initiative was launched in California in 2022, funding advocacy coalitions in seven counties. The initiative established Advisory Committees, engaged diverse stakeholders, and developed local MPAs and a 'Rural MPA Toolkit' to support replication in other rural communities to create inclusive, local aging plans.

## **5E**

### **Growing the Rural Nursing Workforce: Enhancing Retention/Expanding NP-Led Clinics**

#### **Room TBD**

*Nicole Peters Kroll, PhD FNP-BC PMHNP-BC, TAMU School of Nursing, Associate Dean for Clinical & Outreach Affairs / Clinical Associate Professor*

*Kelly Wilson, PhD, MCHES, Texas A&M University, School of Nursing, Professor*

*Elizabeth Ellis, APRN, DNP, FNP-BC, TAMU School of Nursing, Assistant Director Clinical & Outreach Affairs*

The complexities of rural recruitment and retention of the healthcare workforce are well known. Texas A&M is addressing rural healthcare workforce challenges by expanding nursing recruitment through school health professions exposure, offering scholarships for rural students, establishing nurse practitioner-led mobile clinics, and enhancing curricula with hands-on experience in rural areas.

## **5F**

### **Rural Community Partnerships to Address Public and Community Health Workforce Needs (FORHP)**



**Room TBD**

*Speakers TBD*

Description TBD

### **RHIS – Operations Track**

#### **Driving Financial Sustainability Through Transformation of Hospital Operations**

**TBD**

*James Wilson, MBA, Mayo Clinic Health System, Chief Financial Officer*

*Prathiba Varkey, MBBS, MBA, Mayo Clinic Health System, President, Mayo Clinic Health System*

*Chris Hasse, PhD, MBA, Mayo Clinic Health System, Chief Administrative Officer*

Post COVID, costs for healthcare organizations continue to increase while reimbursement levels can't catch up. We will discuss how we empowered our teams for financial sustainability in today's environment. We will describe five pillars used by our Sustainable Management Above Reimbursement Transformation (SMART) initiative to reduce expenses and/or enhance revenue.

### **RHIS – Innovations Track**

#### **Lessons Learned from the Rural Obstetrics Innovations Summit**

**Room TBD**

*Erin Sullivan, PhD, Suffolk University, Associate Professor*

*Eric Shell, MBA, CPA*

*Sarah Moore, MD*

*Andrew Hannapel, MD*

The presenters will share key insights on innovations, leadership qualities, and strategies for success discussed at the 2024 Rural Obstetrics Innovations Summit. They will also explore lessons learned from the Summit via two case studies that highlight the challenges of maintaining obstetrics programs in rural hospitals.

### **5G**

#### **Contributed Research Papers – Mental & Behavioral Health**

- **Engagement Factors for a Remotely-Delivered Suicide Prevention Psychotherapy**  
*Megan Chesin, PhD, Professor/Researcher, William Paterson University/VA NJ Healthcare System*
- **Disparities in suicidality among rural US LGBTQ+ adults**  
*Zheyin (Stephen) Chen, MSPH, Research Data Analyst, Johns Hopkins University*  
*Sarah M. Murray, PhD, MSPH, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University*
- **Geographic Disparities in Suicide Mortality in the U.S.**

*Qian Huang, PhD, MA, MPA, Research Assistant Professor, East Tennessee State University*

- **Rural-Urban Disparities in Access to Outpatient Mental Healthcare**

*Peiyin Hung, PhD, Co-Director, University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center*

**12:00 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Rural Health Awards Luncheon**

Join NRHA for a tribute to the 2025 Rural Health Award winners.

**2:00-3:15 p.m.**

**Terry Reilly Lecture**

*Somava Saha, MD, MS, Founder and Executive Lead, WE in the World*

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Poster Session/Break**

**3:30 – 4:45 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**6A**

**Perinatal Substance Use and Treatment in Rural America**

**Room TBD**

*Peiyin Hung, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Co-Director and Associate Professor*

*KariLynn Dowling-McClay, PharmD, MPH, BCACP, ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center, Assistant Professor*

*Emma Boswell, MPH, University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Research Associate*

Perinatal substance use is an escalating concern, given its strong links with perinatal depression and severe maternal morbidity, disproportionately affecting rural pregnant/postpartum women. This session will present comprehensive national data on rural-urban disparities in perinatal substance use and highlight evidence-based buprenorphine therapy for birthing individuals with opioid use disorders.

**Rural Community Strategies to Address Opioid Use Disorder**

**Room TBD**

*Carrie Howard, MA, CPHQ, CPPS, Stratis Health, Program Manager*

*Erin Foss, RN, CARN, CCHP, Stratis Health, Clinical Subject Matter Expert, Addiction Medicine*

This session describes rural-relevant multi-modal approaches to address opioid use disorder (OUD) including addressing stigma, training clinicians and care teams, improving law enforcement and correctional approaches to OUD, and engaging community members. The session shares successful strategies and tools which can be rapidly replicated or adapted.

## **6B**

### **Strengthening Infection Prevention in Rural Healthcare Facilities**

#### **Room TBD**

*Stephen Perez, PhD, RN, CRNP, CDC, Nurse Epidemiologist and Team Lead for Priority Populations Team*

*Aqueelah Barrie, MPH, MBA, CDC, Public Health Program Manager, Priority Populations Team*

*Victoria Russo, CIC, MPH, CDC, Epidemiologist*

*Jackie Woodring, MA, CDC, Lead, Project Firstline Communications Strategy Team*

Rural healthcare facilities have competing priorities and may face challenges implementing infection prevention and control (IPC) initiatives. This session will provide an overview of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Project Firstline (PFL) educational resources and discuss strategies that strengthen IPC practices and protect frontline healthcare workers and their patients.

## **6C**

### **Replicable Digital Strategies to Support Rural Mental Health**

#### **Room TBD**

*Julianna Hogan, PhD, Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center, Psychologist*

*Jan Lindsay, PhD, Co-Director, South Central MIRECC*

*Katherine Bay, PhD, MEDVAMC, Health Science Specialist*

*Giselle Day, MPH, MEDVAMC, Health Science Specialist*

Explore 3 innovations for remotely delivered mental health (MH) care for rural Veterans: decision aid for VA-developed apps; Patient Generated Health Data to enhance web-based programming; and digital MH clinic infrastructure recommendations. This session offers practical, scalable tools to enhance access, improve engagement, support providers, and bridge the digital divide.

### **Telemedicine Solutions for Reducing Mental Health Burden**

#### **Room TBD**

*Amber Reints, CNP, PMHNP, Avel eCare, Director of Behavioral Health Services*

With the growing mental health crisis and staffing shortages, critical access hospitals face long ER stays for patients needing outpatient services. This session explores innovative telemedicine strategies to provide timely behavioral health support for rural populations.

**6D**

**Rural Public Health Messaging: Respecting Literacy, Culture, and Language**

**Room TBD**

*Kay Miller Temple, MD MMC, University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health*

Effective communication and increased patient understanding leads to better health outcomes. This session reviews plain language, health literacy, and culturally and linguistically appropriate messaging that can impact public health and the content of health information so that it may be tailored for rural health delivery organizations.

**6E**

**Texas A&M/NRHA CHW**

**Room TBD**

*Speakers TBD*

Description TBD

**6F**

**From Dreams to Fruition: A Roadmap for Launching Rural Residency Programs (FORHP)**

**Room TBD**

*Lori Rodefeld, MS, Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME / Rural WI Health Cooperative, Director of GME Development*

*Emily Hawes, PharmD, CPP, University of North Carolina / Rural Residency Planning and Development Technical Assistance Center, Professor / Deputy Director*

*John Waits, MD, Cahaba Medical Care, CEO and Residency Program Director*

*Jason Steele, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Public Health Analyst*

Rural communities grapple with shortages of primary care physicians. Despite evidence that rural training increases physician retention in underserved areas, graduate medical education remains scarce in rural communities. Engage with experts to explore a roadmap and examples of how rural healthcare organizations can build a foundation for future residency training.

**RHIS – Operations Track**

**The Road to Financial and Operational Success**

**Room TBD**

*Ralph Llewellyn, CPA, Eide Bailly LLP, Partner*

*Brian Bertsch, Eide Bailly LLP, Principal*

*Jared Heim, CPA, Eide Bailly LLP, Partner*

The road to financial and operational success for rural providers is a bumpy one at best. Over time, common replicable opportunities have been identified to achieve long term success and sustainability. This session will explore these opportunities and strategies that can be employed by providers.

## **RHIS- Innovations Track**

### **AI: The New Landscape**

#### **Room TBD**

*Kayur Patel, MD, MRO, FACP, FACPE, MDExperts LLC, MD*

Healthcare leaders are pivotal in guiding hospitals towards harnessing the potential of AI to deliver superior care, optimize operations and drive innovation. This presentation aims to equip healthcare leaders with the knowledge & skills to navigate the integration of AI effectively, fostering innovation ensuring the highest standard of care and ethical practice.

## **6G**

### **Contributed Research Papers – Rural Hospitals**

- **Rural-urban effects of Medicaid expansion on hospital revenue**  
*Mark Holmes, PhD, Director, UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research*
- **Economic Effects of Rural Hospital Mergers and Acquisitions**  
*Tyler Malone, PhD, Research Investigator and Fellow, UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research*
- **A New Approach for Estimating Rural Hospital Markets**  
*Tyler Malone, PhD, Research Investigator and Fellow, UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research*
- **Trends in System Characteristics for Affiliated Hospitals**  
*Deborah Odihi, MHS, PhD Student and Graduate Research Assistant, UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research*

## **Friday, May 23, 2025**

**8:00-9:30 a.m.**

### **Washington Update**

*Carrie Cochran-McClain, National Rural Health Association, Chief Policy Officer*

Join rural health's top federal lobbyist for an insider's update about what's going on in Washington and what to expect in the next year.

**9:30 – 9:45 a.m.**

**Break**

**9:45 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**7A**

**Addressing Maternal Health Disparities: Strategies for Primary Care**

**Room TBD**

*Ariel Porto, MPH, Moses/Weitzman Health System, Assistant Director of Education Operations  
Lauren Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, FAAFP, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Eugene S.  
Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center, Associate Professor of Family Medicine; State Policy Director  
Meghan Constantino, CNM, Community Health Center, Inc., Nurse Midwife*

With sufficient training, rural primary care teams are well-positioned to address risk factors related to maternal morbidity and mortality. This multidisciplinary panel explores steps rural providers and leaders are taking to improve maternal health outcomes, best practice recommendations for primary care, and how a community of practice supports these initiatives.

**Bridging Rural Maternal Care Gaps: Telehealth, Access, & Cost**

*Peiyin Hung, Rural & Minority Health Research Center, Deputy Director and Associate Professor  
Sayward Harrison, University of South Carolina Department of Psychology, Associate Professor  
and Director  
Jiani Yu, Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Population Health Sciences, Assistant Professor  
Nansi Boghossian, University of South Carolina Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics,  
Associate Professor*

This session will discuss recent findings from NIH-funded research on rural-urban and racial/ethnic disparities in maternal telehealth uptake, policy, and care patterns. Attendees will learn about rural telehealth use patterns for prenatal/postpartum care across 50 states with varying telehealth policies and associations of telehealth use with access, outcomes, and expenditures.

**7B**

**Swing Bed Quality Measures**

**TBD**

*TBA*

Description TBD.

**7C**

**Telerehabilitation Initiatives to Improve Access for Rural Veterans**

**Room TBD**

*Keith Myers, PT, DPT, MBA, Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health, Co-Director, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center*

*Sergio Romero, PhD, Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health, Co-Director, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center*

*Consuelo Kreider, PhD, OTR/L, University of Florida, Clinical Associate Professor*

*Steven Kostas, MS, CCC-SLP, Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health, Program Director, Rural Veterans Telerehabilitation Initiative*

This session will present innovative approaches to provide rehabilitation services to Veterans living in rural areas. National level Veterans Administration, Office of Rural Health, programs and research projects utilizing a range of telehealth applications and technologies will be discussed.

## **7D**

### **Using Area-Level Vulnerability Measures in Policy and Practice**

#### **Room TBD**

*Casey Balio, PhD, ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center, Research Assistant Professor*

*Michael Meit, MA, MPH, ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center, Deputy Director*

*Sarah Tennyson, MPH, Transylvania County Public Health, Region 1 Public Health Workforce Development Director*

Area-level vulnerability indices (e.g. Social Vulnerability Index, Area Deprivation Index) are widely used in policy, yet the implications for rural communities are unknown. This session will present academic, federal, and local perspectives on how indices vary by rurality, how they are being used, and considerations for their use moving forward.

## **7E**

### **FARming Physicians for Rural South Dakota**

#### **Room TBD**

*Janet Fulk, University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Assistant Director, Frontier and Rural Medicine (FARM)*

*Gaven Bowman, University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine*

The University of South Dakota's Frontier and Rural Medicine program strives to invigorate the rural physician workforce by providing longitudinal, immersive, hands-on clinical training in rural and frontier communities. Fostering early commitment to rural medical practice strengthens workforce retention, healthcare access, clinical outcomes, and overall patient-centered continuity.

### **Creating Synergy: Rural Residencies and Medical Student Education**

## **TBD**

*Meghan Meyers, EdD, University of Missouri - Columbia, Senior Program Coordinator*  
*Whitney LeFevre, MD, University of Missouri - Columbia, Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine/Rural Scholars Medical Director*  
*Misty Todd, MD, Bothwell Regional Health Center, Bothwell-University of Missouri Rural Family Medicine Residency Director*  
*Ellie Euer, BA, Bothwell Regional Health Center, Graduate Medical Education Site Coordinator*

Rural medical education programs are needed to increase the rural physician workforce. This session will describe how one rural health system has integrated graduate and undergraduate medical education activities to address the rural physician workforce shortage. Lessons learned, best practices, and benefits will be discussed.

## **7F**

### **TBD (FORHP)**

#### **Room TBD**

*Speakers TBD*

Description TBD.

## **RHIS – Operations Track**

### **Scalable Advancements in Rural Health Care Quality**

#### **Room TBD**

*Mindy Cook, National American Heart Association, Senior Director Rural Health Care Quality*

A moderated panel presentation that will begin with several brief quality project overviews highlighting advancements implemented by Rural Health Care Outcomes Accelerator participants across the country. Followed by a dynamic moderated Q&A that will address diverse challenges and creative solutions to providing evidence-based acute cardiovascular and stroke care.

## **7G**

### **Contributed Research Papers**

- **All of Us Journey - A One-Stop Approach to Engagement**  
*Edgar Gil Rico, MBA, Director for Innovation, National Alliance for Hispanic Health*
- **Geo-classification in New York State: Redefining Rurality, Prioritizing Self-Perception**  
*Lucas Sienk, MSBA, Health Planning Research Analyst, Common Ground Health*
- **Race and Ethnicity Disparities in Rural Surgical Outcomes**  
*Cody Mullens, MD, MPH, General Surgery Resident and National Clinician Scholar, University of Michigan*
- **Rural-Specific Strategies for Marketplace Enrollment: Navigator Perspectives**



*Susie Gurzenda, MS, Graduate Research Assistant, NC Rural Health Research Program (UNC)*

**11:00 a.m.**

**End of Annual Conference**

DRAFT

### **2025 Accepted Poster List**

#### **Do HCC Risk Scores Accurately Reflect Rural Health?**

*Craig D. Holden, PhD, MPH, Alana Knudson, PhD, Marilyn Klug, PhD, Samantha Augenbraun, MPH, Shena Popat, MHA*

#### **Primary Care Utilization Among Refugees in Rural America**

*Inijesu Taiwo MD, MPH,1,2, Oreoluwa Akinsola MD,2,3 Oluwadamilola Adegbenro MD,2 Jena Freese RN,1 Andrea DeFelice RN,1 Andrea Shaw MD,1,4 Kathryn Anderson MD, MPH, PhD.1 1.Onondaga County*

*Health Department, Syracuse, NY 2.Health Literacy Network, Syracuse, NY 3.University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 4.Center for International Health, SUNY Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, NY*

### **Vaccination Rates and Challenges Among Refugee Children in Rural America**

*Inijesu Taiwo MD, MPH,1,2, Oreoluwa Akinsola MD,2,3 Oluwadamilola Adegbenro MD,2 Jena Freese RN,1 Andrea DeFelice RN,1 Andrea Shaw MD,1,4 Kathryn Anderson MD, MPH, PhD.1 1.Onondaga County Health Department, Syracuse, NY 2.Health Literacy Network, Syracuse, NY 3.University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 4.Center for International Health, SUNY Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, NY*

### **Transforming Rural Health Through Virtual Care & Community Relationships**

*Christian Milaster, MS, CEO, Ingenium Digital Health Advisors; Wendy Brezny, MN, RN, Director of Clinical Integration, Thriving Together NCW; Yael Harris, PhD, MHS, CEO, Laurel Health Advisors*

### **Potentially Avoidable Utilization in Rural Hospitals**

*Addison Kimber, MPH, Analyst at Mathematica*

### **Rural Care Challenges for Young Adults with T1D**

*Elena Lemke, MS2, University of Kansas Medical Center*

### **Clinical Trial Activities and Rural Communities, Patients, Providers**

*J. Rob Singleton, MD, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Neurology University of Utah School of Medicine, Director, CTSI Clinical Research Unit; Stacey Peterson, MBA, Research Rurality Program Manager, Utah Clinical & Translational Science Institute, University of Utah*

### **Challenges of opening rural maternity care centers**

*Isabella C. A. Higgins, MPP (Doctoral Candidate, Gillings School of Public Health); Emily C. Sheffield, MPH (Doctoral Student, University of Minnesota School of Public Health); Caroline Hays, MPH, RN/BSN (Clinical Initiative Manager, Perinatal Quality Collaborative of North Carolina); Kathryn Wouk, PhD, MS, IBCLC (Associate Research Scientist, PIRE Chapel Hill); Ellen Chetwynd, PhD, MPH, BSN, IBCLC (Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Human Lactation)*

### **Enhancing Rural Health Equity Through Broadband in Texas**

*Bavithra Lakshmanasamy, BSc, UG Research Assistant, University of Texas at Arlington*

### **Chronic Pain in Rural Communities: Auricular Point Acupressure**

*Jane Bolin, PhD, JD, Professor, Texas A&M University Health Science Center; Peiyin Hung, PhD, MSPH, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health; Hulin Wu, PhD, Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health; Rupsikha Bora, MS, Clinical Research Assistant, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Cizik School of Nursing; Jennifer Kawi, PhD, MSN, FNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Cizik School of Nursing*

### **Effective Messages and Messengers for Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines**

*Francis Kazungu, MS, Research Specialist, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford; Emily Stiehl, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago; Kathleen Monteleone, MPH, Director of Community Engagement, University of Illinois College of Medicine*

*Rockford; Marquia Wittfield, BSN, RNC-OB, CLS, Community Health Nurse Educator, Stephenson County Health Department; Katiana Rodriguez, MPH, CHEC, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Stephenson County Health Department; Manorama M. Khare, PhD, MS, Research Associate Professor, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford*

#### **Trends in Rural-Urban Births in Oklahoma**

*Chad Landgraf, MS, GISP, Assistant Director, Oklahoma State University, OSU Center for Rural Health; Dr. Denna Wheeler, PhD, Executive Director, Oklahoma State University, OSU Center for Rural Health*

#### **The role of context in rural perinatal mental health**

*Allissa Desloge, PhD, MPH; Emily Orr, MS; Lisa Haen, MPH; Kristine Zimmermann, PhD, MPH*

#### **Rural-Urban Differences in Chronic Pain among Cancer Survivors**

*Emily Hallgren, PhD; Maija Reblin, PhD; Hyojin Choi, PhD, University of Vermont Cancer Center*

#### **The Cost Effectiveness of CHW's in Improving Colorectal Cancer Screening in Rural Areas**

*Jane N. Bolin, Regents Professor*

#### **Evaluating Interventions for Rural Older Adults with HIV**

*Jennifer L. Walsh, Associate Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW); Sabina Hirshfield, Principal Research Scientist, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University; Katherine G. Quinn, Associate Professor, MCW; Steven A. John, Associate Professor, MCW; Olivia Algiers, Research Program Coordinator II, MCW; Liam Randall, Research Program Coordinator III, MCW; David Wyley Long, Special Initiatives Manager, Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC); Cynthia Rogers, Research Associate, SAC; Timothy McAuliffe, Professor, MCW; Andrew E. Petroll, Professor, MCW*

#### **Price Differences for Procedures at Rural Hospitals**

*Cody Mullens, MD MPH (General Surgery Resident and National Clinician Scholar, University of Michigan); Mitchell Mead, BSA (Medical Student, University of Michigan); James Lee, MD (National Clinician Scholar, University of Michigan); Justin Dimick, MD MPH (Professor and Chair of Surgery, University of Michigan); Andrew Ibrahim, MD MSc (Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan)*

#### **Community-based recovery for rural individuals with SMI**

*Gloria Oladeji, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Wyoming; Ruth Korankye, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Wyoming; Rebecca Reeves, OTD, OTR/L, Director, Iris Clubhouse; Lauren Gilbert, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming*

#### **Advancing Health Equity in Rural Alabama: Catalyst Ambassadors "For Poster Session"**

*Dionte Rudolph, MBA, MPH, Project Manager, Southern Research Institute; Kathryn Estes, MPH, Strategy Associate, Southern Research Institute*

#### **Structural Stigma and Mental Health of Rural LGBTQ+ Adults**

*Zheyin (Stephen) Chen, MSPH, Research Coordinator, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Shoshanna L. Fine, PhD, Assistant Research Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Jennifer L. Glick, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, Louisiana*

State University Health Science Center; John Mark Wiginton, PhD, Assistant Scientist, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Iaah Lucas, MPH, Associate Director of Programs – PRISM Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Mariah Valentine-Graves, MPH, Associate Director of Programs – PRISM Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Thomas Waltz, MPH, Data Analyst – PRISM Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Savannah Winter, BA, Program Coordinator – PRISM Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Gina Bailey Herring, MSN MSCM, Nurse Practitioner, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Stefan D. Baral, MD, Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Holly Wilcox, PhD, Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Travis Sanchez, DVM, Research Professor, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Sarah M. Murray, PhD, Associate Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

#### **Obstetric Facilities in a Rapidly Changing Context: Georgia**

Kristen Liberty Zecca, MPH, Medical Student, Emory University School of Medicine; Britney Beckett, Medical Student, Emory School of Medicine; Melissa Kottke, MD, MPH, MBA, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emory University School of Medicine

#### **Rural and Urban Variations in Telehealth Use and Preferences among Primary Care Patients Receiving Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder**

Tyrone F. Borders, PhD, University of Kentucky

#### **Rural Patient Surgical Bypass: Thresholds and Consequences**

Mustafa Abid, MD MPH, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research; Department of Surgery UNC School of Medicine; Tyler Malone, PhD, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research; Mark Holmes, PhD, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research; Anthony Charles, MD MPH, Department of Surgery UNC School of Medicine

#### **Improving Door to CT Rural Missouri Emergency Department**

Thomas McCallister, RN Missouri Delta Medical Center; Brandon Davis, RN, EMT-P Stroke Coordinator Missouri Delta Medical Center; Norma Jacob BSN, RN Missouri Delta Medical Center; Allie Eftink BSN, RN, Missouri Delta Medical Center; Jessica Fincher, RN, Missouri Delta Medical Center; Dr. Lauren Blackwelder, Medical Director, Missouri Delta Medical Center; Ashley Johnson BSN, RN, Program Consultant, American Heart Association

#### **STEMI Care Improvement Strategies: Rural Missouri Hospital**

Megan Carter, MD, Medical Director, Cox Monett Hospital; Heidi Clark, BSN, Director of Nursing, Cox Monett Hospital; Nick Mercer, BSN, EMT-P, ED Manager, Cox Monett Hospital; Jami Blackwell, BSN, System Time Critical Diagnosis Coordinator, CoxHealth; Brittany Henson, BSN, American Heart Association; David Zolfaghari, MD, Cardiologist, CoxHealth Medical Center South; Kallie Provost, BSN, Time Critical Diagnosis Coordinator; Cox Monett Hospital

#### **Creating a Rural Hospital Strategy for Colorado**

Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDs, State Policy Director, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center; Liza M. Creel, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center; John M. Westfall MD, MPH, Vice

*President Medical Affairs, DARTNet Institute; Vanessa S. Case, MS-CEP, Program Manager, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center; Vanessa Reeves, MA, Center Coordinator, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center; Bahroze Rakeen, PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center; Emily Wheat, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center; Sara Byers, MS, Biostats Analyst, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center*

#### **Geographical Hot Spots of Lung Cancer Screening Follow-Up**

*Mi Jung Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Texas Medical Branch; Aokun Chen, PhD, Assistant Scientist, University of Florida; Yi Guo, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Florida*

#### **Lessons Learned in Implementation of a Clinic-Based Healthy Food Delivery Intervention for Rural Patients with Type 2 Diabetes and Food Insecurity**

*Pearl A. McElfish, PhD, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Brett Rowland, MA, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Kelsey Bounds, MA, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Eliza Short, PhD, Center for Nutrition and Health Impact; Christopher R. Long, PhD, Center for Nutrition and Health Impact*

#### **Home Assessment and Modifications for Rural Area Residents**

*Mi Jung Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Texas Medical Branch; Jaewon Kang, PhD, Assistant Professor, Colorado State University; Consuelo Kreider, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Florida; Kim Findley, RN, Research Coordinator, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center (VRHRC-GNV); Keith Myers, DPT, Clinical Director, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center (VRHRC-GNV); Sergio Romero, PhD, Operations Director, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center (VRHRC-GNV)*

#### **Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions in Rural South Carolina Hospital**

*Brian Oyler, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, Heart Failure Coordinator, Beaufort Memorial Hospital; Katherine Stoddard, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, Beaufort Memorial Hospital; Andrew Kiser, MD, Hospitalist, Beaufort Memorial Hospital; Stuart Smalheiser, MD, Cardiologist, Beaufort Memorial Hospital; Lori Hollowell, MHIT, BSN, National Director Rural Health Care Quality, American Heart Association*

#### **Evaluation of State Rural Graduate Medical Education Strategies**

*Raquel Davis, MPH, Graduate Research Assistant, RRPD/THCPD/THCGME Technical Assistance Center, UNC Chapel Hill; Shelby Rimmner-Cohen, MPH, Associate Director, RRPD/THCPD/THCGME Technical Assistance Center, UNC Chapel Hill; Lori Rodefelf, MS, Director of GME Development, RRPD/THCPD/THCGME Technical Assistance Centers, UNC Chapel Hill; Khadeejatul-Kubraa Lawal, BS, Graduate Research Assistant, RRPD/THCPD/THCGME Technical Assistance Center, UNC Chapel Hill; Emily M. Hawes, PharmD, BCPS, CPP, Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Project Director, RRPD/THCPD/THCGME Technical Assistance Center, UNC Chapel Hill; Erin P. Fraher, PhD, MPP, Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Director, Carolina Health Workforce Research & Policy, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC Chapel Hill*

### **State-wide EHR Consortium to Identify Urbanicity-related Diabetes Disparities**

*Yue Yu, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Lisa Vaughan, MS, Principal Biostatistician, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Jill Killian, Principal Programmer, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Catherine Benziger, MD, MPH, Cardiologist, Essentia Health, Duluth, MN; Tyler Winkelman, MD, MSc, Division Director of General Internal Medicine, Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis, MN; Karen L. Margolis, MD, MPH, Senior Research Investigator, HealthPartners Institute, Bloomington, MN; Kelly Bergmann, DO, Director of Research, Emergency Medicine, Children's Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; Jay Desai, PhD, MPH, Manager, Chronic Disease and Environmental Epidemiology at Minnesota Department of Health; Teresa A Defor, MS, HealthPartners Institute, Bloomington, MN; Patrick O'Connor, MD, MA, MPH, HealthPartners Institute, Bloomington, MN; Paul Drawz, MD, MHS, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; Inih Essien, Research Project Manager, HealthPartners Institute, Bloomington, MN; Moncies Franco, Community Engaged Research Coordinator, Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute; Alexander Bryan, MD, MPH, Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis, MN; Alanna Chamberlain, PhD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; On behalf of the Minnesota Electronic Health Records Consortium*

### **Implementing the HEART Score for Chest Pain Evaluation**

*Tiffany Kjelland, BSN, RN, STEMI Coordinator, CHI Lisbon Health; Leighanne Houserman, MD, CHI Lisbon Health; Natalie Spitzer, BSN, RN, Program Consultant, American Heart Association*

### **Telepsychotherapy Improves Health-Related Quality of Life in Parkinson's**

*Christopher Liong, PhD, VA New Jersey Health Care; Alejandro Interian, PhD, VA New Jersey Health Care, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Roseanne Dobkin, PhD, VA New Jersey Health Care, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*

### **Mock Stroke Simulations in Rural Critical Access Hospital**

*Tracy Victory, MSN, RN Assistant ED Director/Stroke Coordinator, Hendry Medical Center; Bernardo Kruszel, MD, Stroke, Emergency Room Director, Hendry Medical Center; Ruddy Valdes, DO, AOBEM, AOBIM, President Small Hospital Innovations, Hendry Medical Center; Lori Hollowell, MHIT, RN, CPHQ, National Director Rural Health, American Heart Association*

### **Urbanicity, Social Vulnerability, and Prevalence of Diagnosed Diabetes**

*Sagar B. Dugani, MD, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Brian D. Lahr, MS, Principal Biostatistician, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Adrian Vella, MD, Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Kent R. Bailey, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Michelle M. Mielke, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC*

### **Addressing Pharmacist Hesitancy Towards Dispensing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder**

*Tyler C. Melton, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy; Rebeca Nieves, MPH, Doctoral Candidate, University of Tennessee Knoxville; Leul Negussie, MPH Candidate, University of Tennessee Knoxville; Laurie Meschke, PhD, Professor, University of Tennessee Knoxville, Department of Public Health*

### **Rural-Urban Differences: Excessive Alcohol Use and Mental Health**

*Taryn Farrell, MPH (Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina and Health Services Policy & Management, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina); Cassie Odahowski, PhD (Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina); Emma Boswell MPH (Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina and Health Services Policy & Management, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina); Christina Andrews PhD (Health Services Policy & Management, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina); Peiyin Hung PhD (Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina and Health Services Policy & Management, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina); Elizabeth Crouch PhD (Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina and Health Services Policy & Management, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina)*

### **Defining Rurality in Veteran Suicide Prevention Treatment**

*Emily Villeneuve, M.A. - VA New York Harbor Healthcare System (VA NYHHS); Alyssa Valvano, LMSW - VA NYHHS; Stephanie Nelson, PsyD - VA NYHHS; Samantha Giordano, MSW - VA NYHHS; Aliza Polkes, M.S. - VA NYHHS, Long Island University, Brooklyn (LIU Brooklyn); Rachael Miller, LCSW - VA New Jersey Healthcare System (VA NJHS); Lauren St. Hill, LCSW - VA NJHS; Autumn Makin, MPH - VA NJHS; Vibha Reddy, M.S. - VA NJHS; Alejandro Interian, PhD - VA NJHS; Cory Chen, PhD - VA NYHHS, LIU Brooklyn*

### **Rural vs. Urban Migraine Care: Opioid Trends Uncovered**

*Shekhar Gujnani (1), Katelyn Junghans (1), Uma Pillai (1), Michael Wacker, PhD (1). (1) - University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine*

### **Rural Immersion: Shining a Light on Appalachian Healthcare**

*Molly Powney, MS, West Virginia University; Reagan Sharp, BS, West Virginia University; Roushini Manjunath, MS, West Virginia University; Thaiddeus Dillie, MBA, West Virginia University; Alexis Chandler, BS, West Virginia University; Brockton Dowling, BS, West Virginia University; Elizabeth Steele, MS, West Virginia University; Heather Hanks, BS, West Virginia University; Dorian Williams, MD, West Virginia University; Treah Haggerty, MS, MD, West Virginia University*

### **Engagement in Non-Pharmacological Pain Approaches among Rural Veterans**

*Diana J. Govier, PhD, MPH, Core Investigator, Career Development Awardee, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center – Portland, VA Office of Rural Health, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Oregon Health & Science University – Portland State University School of Public Health; Hannah Flegal, BA, Program Assistant, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System; Natassja Pal, BS, Research Project Manager, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Department of Psychiatry, Oregon Health & Science University; Steven K. Dobscha, MD, Psychiatrist, Core Investigator, Director, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Department of Psychiatry, Oregon Health & Science University; Travis I. Lovejoy, PhD, Psychologist, Core Investigator, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center – Portland, VA Office of Rural Health, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Department of Psychiatry, Oregon Health & Science University;*

*Benjamin J. Morasco, PhD, Psychologist, Core Investigator, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Department of Psychiatry, Oregon Health & Science University*

#### **Healthcare AI Fails Rural Populations Due to Bias**

*Brendan Adkinson, MPhil, MD-PhD Candidate, Yale School of Medicine; Matthew Rosenblatt, MS, PhD Candidate, Yale School of Medicine; Dustin Scheinost, PhD, Associate Professor, Yale School of Medicine*

#### **Firearm Injury Prevention: VA Resident Physician Perspectives**

*Hunter Stuehm, AuD, Research Audiologist, VA National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, VA Portland Health Care System; Katherine Iossi, MD, Physician, VA Portland Health Care System; Summer Newell, PhD, MPH, Qualitative Analyst, VA Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System; Sambith Rout, BS, Research Assistant, VA National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, VA Portland Health Care System; Emily Thielman, MS, Statistician, VA National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, VA Portland Health Care System; Kathleen Carlson, PhD, Research Investigator, VA Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System; Steven Dobscha, MD, Physician, VA Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System; Khaya Clark, PhD, Research Investigator, VA National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, VA Portland Health Care System*

#### **Overcoming Rural Healthcare Workforce Barriers: A Mixed-Methods Study**

*Zhi Li, PhD, Research Specialist, National Center for Rural Health Professions; Kiruthika Balakrishnan, PhD, Post-Doctorate Scholar in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Rural Medicine, National Center for Rural Health Professions; Hana Hinkle, PhD, Director, National Center for Rural Health Professions; Vicki Weidenbacher-Hoper, MSW, Associate Director of Rural Workforce and Center Development, National Center for Rural Health Professions; Elizabeth Squires, MPH, MCHES, Assistant Director of External & Pathways Programs, National Center for Rural Health Professions*

#### **Role of Trust in Rural Cancer Prevention**

*Mariam Krikorian Atkinson, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Alee Lockman, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University; Bekka Stein, Research Assistant, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Mah-Afroze Chughtai, Statistician, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; James McGee, MD, Director, OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute*

#### **Reasons Rural Indigenous People Experience Delayed/Forgone Care**

*Ingrid Jacobson, MPH; Julia Interrante, PhD, MPH; Hailey A. Baker, BS; Mariana Tuttle, MPH; Katy B. Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA; University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center (all)*

#### **Electronic Case Reporting for Critical Access Hospitals**

*Melissa Hester, MPH, Vitek Consulting; Sarah Sobonya, PhD, CDC; Rachel McWilliams, BS, CDC*

#### **VHA RN Transition-to-Practice Residency Program Rural Sites Evaluation**

*Kelley Arredondo, PhD; Hilary N. Touchett, PhD, RN; Kyanna Harris, MPH; Trenton Haltom, PhD; Breeana White, BS; Derrecka Boykin, PhD; Nipa Kamdar, PhD, RN, FNP-BC; Matthew Vincenti, PhD; Bradley V. Watts, MD*



**A New Partnership to Improve Lone Worker Safety**

*Ken Scott, PhD, MPH, Research Epidemiologist, NIOSH*

**Central Cessation: Smoking continuation among patients with COPD**

*McKenzie Granata Green, MS; Laurie Meschke, PhD; Javiette Samuel, PhD; Thankam Sunil, PhD; Phoebe Tran, PhD; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

**Determining cost-effective GDMT in rural North Carolina**

*Ben Eavenson, MD, Resident Physician, University of North Carolina Department of Medicine*

**Faith Leaders Overcoming Opioids in the Community**

*Su Chen Tan, PhD, Data Coordinator/Graduate Research Assistant, University of Tennessee - Knoxville; Laurie L. Meschke, PhD, Professor of Public Health, University of Tennessee - Knoxville; Jennifer Tourville, DNP, Executive Director of SMART, University of Tennessee Institute of Public Service; Marta Cogburn, Director of Recovery Ministries, First United Methodist Church, Newport; Kyle Prichard, Senior Pastor, The Hill Church, Claiborne*

**Geographic Variations in Children's Oral Health: National Study**

*Vinodh Bhoopathi., BDS, MPH, DScD, Associate Professor, Section of Public & Population Health, University of California at Los Angeles School of Dentistry; Dr. Christine Wells, PhD, University of California at Los Angeles*

**Perinatal Quality Collaboratives: Supporting Rural Perinatal Populations**

*Jacqueline Wallace, MD, MPH, Medical Officer, CDC's Division of Reproductive Health; Merissa A. Yellman, MPH, Health Scientist, CDC's Division of Reproductive Health; Francheska S. Gurule, MD, Medical Director, The New Mexico Perinatal Collaborative; Marykaitlin Hildebrandt, BA, Program Director/SUD in Pregnancy Coordinator, The New Mexico Perinatal Collaborative; Caroline Sedano, MPH, Principal Investigator, The Washington State Perinatal Collaborative; Tiffany Tibbs, MPH, CHES, Program Lead, The Washington State Perinatal Collaborative; Kathryn Pirie, PT, MSc, MPA-HCA, Director of Quality Improvement, WV Perinatal Partnership, Inc.*

**American Indian/Alaska Native Perinatal Care Coverage and Quality**

*Dr. Julia Interrante (Researcher UMNHRHC); Dr. Jessica Liddell (Assistant Professor University of Montana); Ms. Emily Sheffield (Student UMNHRHC); Ms. Hailey Baker (Student UMN); Dr. Danielle Gartner (Assistant Professor Michigan State); Dr. Katy Kozhimannil (Co-Director UMNHRHC)*

**Self-reported rurality versus county-based classification among postpartum people**

*Katy Backes Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA (Co-Director, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center); Emily C. Sheffield, MPH (Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center); Julia D. Interrante, PhD, MPH (Research Fellow/Statistical Lead, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center); Chen Liu (Doctoral Student, Vanderbilt University); Jamie Roberta Daw, PhD (Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health)*

**Rural-Urban Education Disparities Among Tennessee Registered Nurses**

*Olivia Sullivan; Nathan Dockery; Fatimah Olawuyi; Nicholas Joyner; Kusse Toitole; Peter Adediji; Ignacio Garcia; McKenzie Dooley; Michael Meit; Qian Huang, East Tennessee State University*

**Social Factors of Short Interpregnancy Intervals in NC**

*Qian Huang, Research Assistant Professor, East Tennessee State University; Liane M. Ventura, PhD student, University of North Carolina; Jo Bradley, WNC Health Network; Kate Beatty, Associate Professor, East Tennessee State University*

**Harrison Memorial Hospital HCV Electronic Health Record Abstract**

*Matthew Blake, DO Harrison Memorial Hospital; Austin Dacci, RDN Harrison Memorial Hospital; Lydia Fuson, RN Harrison Memorial Hospital; Melissa Slade, BSN, RN, CRHCP Harrison Memorial Hospital*

**Quality Improvement to Increase Completion of Advance Directive**

*Claire Lupini-Gohl Michigan State University; David Walsworth, MD, Michigan State University*

**Rural/urban differences in postpartum health and care access**

*Dr. Julia Interrante (Researcher UMNHRHC); Dr. Clara Busse (Postdoc UMNHRHC); Ms. Alyssa Fritz (Fellow UMNHRHC); Dr. Sara Handley (Assistant Professor PENN); Dr. Katy Kozhimannil (Co-Director UMNHRHC)*

**Medicare Advantage Penetration and Patient Deduction: Rural-Urban Differences**

*Samuel Opoku, MBChB, PhD; Bettye Apenteng, PhD; Linda Kimsey, PhD; Kwabena Boakye, PhD; Charles Owens, MFA; Angie Peden, MPH, Georgia Southern University*

**The Moderating Roles of Career Growth and Professional Development, and Supervisory Support on Work Engagement – Employee Turnover Relationship**

*Kwabena Boakye, PhD; Bettye Apenteng, PhD; Samuel Opoku, MBChB, PhD; Linda Kimsey, PhD; Charles Owens, MFA; Angie Peden, MPH; Andrew Hansen, DrPH; William Mase, DrPH; Tilicia Mayo-Gamble, PhD; Jason Murdock, MFA, Georgia Southern University*

**State Differences in Obstetric Access at Rural/Urban Hospitals**

*Dr. Katy Kozhimannil (Co-Director UMNHRHC); Dr. Julia Interrante (Researcher UMNHRHC); Dr. Caitlin Carroll (Assistant Professor UMN); Ms. Emily Sheffield (Student UMNHRHC); Ms. Alyssa Fritz (Fellow UMNHRHC); Dr. Alecia McGregor (Assistant Professor Harvard); Dr. Sara Handley (Assistant Professor PENN)*

**A Toolkit to Improve Brain Health Care**

*Jennifer Pettis, MS, RN, CNE, director of strategic alliances, Gerontological Society of America*

**Telehealth with Older Rural Veterans: Barriers and Solutions**

*Jennifer Freytag - Health Science Specialist, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC); Ashley H. Smith - Qualitative Analyst, MEDVAMC; Hilary N. Touchett - Research Health Scientist, MEDVAMC; Mackenzie L. Shanahan - Psychologist/Research Health Scientist, MEDVAMC; Amber B. Amspoker - Quantitative Methodologist, MEDVAMC; Jan A. Lindsay - Co-Director, South Central MIRECC, MEDVAMC; Stephanie C. Day - Psychologist/Research Health Scientist, MEDVAMC*

### **Enhancing Interoperability and Care Coordination Across Rural Arkansas**

*Anne Santifer, Director- Arkansas Department of Health, Office of Health Information Technology, SHARE HIE; Justin Villines, HIT Policy Director, Arkansas Department of Health, Office of Health Information Technology, SHARE HIE*

### **Changes in patient-sharing patterns after oncologist departure**

*Sarah L. Cornelius, MPH (Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth); James O'Malley, PhD, MS (Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth); Gabriel A. Brooks, MD (Dartmouth Cancer Center); Anna N.A. Tosteson, ScD (Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth); Erika L. Moen, PhD, MS (Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth)*

### **Home Telehealth Care for Nutritional Management of Diabetes**

*Hannah Dail-Barnett, MPH, Evaluation Manager - Telehealth, ECU Brody School of Medicine; Jill Jennings, M.S., RD, LDN, Project Manager - Telehealth, Dept. of Public Health, ECU Brody School of Medicine; Jess Barrett, MS, RD, LDN, Nutritionist, ECU Brody School of Medicine; Brittany Pierce, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Roanoke-Chowan Community Health Center; Jennifer Curley, RN, Telehealth Nurse, Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center; Doyle M. Cummings, Pharm.D., FCP, FCCP, Berbecker Distinguished Professor of Rural Medicine, Professor of Public Health, ECU Brody School of Medicine*

### **Evolving Implementation Improves Telehealth Adoption for Rural Veterans**

*Stephanie C. Day - Psychologist/Research Health Scientist, MEDVAMC, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC); Giselle A. Day - Health Science Specialist, MEDVAMC; Hilary N. Touchett - Research Health Scientist, MEDVAMC; Julianna B. Hogan - Psychologist/Research Health Scientist, MEDVAMC; Jan A. Lindsay - Co-Director, South Central MIRECC*

### **Qualitative Evaluation of Implementation to Increase Rural Access**

*Patricia V. Chen - Assistant Professor/Qualitative Methodologist, MEDVAMC; Stephanie C. Day, PhD - Psychologist/Research Health Scientist, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC); Ashley H. Smith - Qualitative Analyst, MEDVAMC; Alexandra B. Caloudas - Psychologist/Research Health Scientist, MEDVAMC; Jan A. Lindsay - Co-Director, South Central MIRECC, MEDVAMC*

### **Characterizing breast cancer screening rates among VA-enrolled rural women Veterans**

*Elizabeth Hulen, PhD (Qualitative Analyst, VHA Office of Rural Health Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Portland); Elizabeth Hooker, MS, MPH (Biostatistician, VA Portland Health Care System); Sarah Shull, PhD (Data Analyst, VA Portland Health Care System); Sarah Ono PhD (Operations Director, VHA Office of Rural Health Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Portland); Samuel T. Edwards, MD, MPH (Investigator and Staff Physician, VA Portland Health Care System)*

### **Rural American Indian and Alaska Native Women Veterans**

*Michelle A. Mengeling, PhD, MS, Health Systems Researcher, VA - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Iowa City; Heather Davila, PhD, MPA, Health Systems Researcher, VA - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Iowa City; Anne G. Sadler, PhD, RN, Health Systems Researcher, VA - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Iowa City; M. Bryant Howren, PhD, MPH, Health Systems Researcher, VA - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Iowa City; B. Josea Kramer, PhD, Health Systems Researcher, VA - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Iowa City*

### **Supporting Rurally-Living Veterans: Patient Priorities Care As A Model for Identifying Unmet Needs and Primary Care Co-Management**

*Amy Thomas, MD, MS, VA Puget Sound GRECC, University of Washington Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology; Gwen Bernacki, MD, MHSA, VA Puget Sound GRECC, University of Washington Division of Cardiology; Karl Brown, MS, VA Puget Sound GRECC; Terri May, RN, VA Puget Sound GRECC; Linnaea Schuttner, MD, MS, Health Services Research, VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, Department of Medicine, University of Washington; Erica Martinez, BA, PMP, VA Puget Sound GRECC; Katherine Ritchey, DO, MPH, VA Puget Sound GRECC, University of Washington Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology*

### **Community Engagement's Role in Mitigating Rural Hospital Outmigration**

*Linda Kimsey, PhD; Bettye A. Apenteng, PhD; Samuel T. Opoku, MBChB, PhD; Kwabena G. Boakye, PhD; Charles Owens, MSA; Angela Peden, MPH; Andrew R. Hansen, DrPH; William A. Mase, DrPH; Tilicia L. Mayo-Gamble, PhD; Jason Murdock, MFA, Georgia Southern University*

### **Rural Veterans with Dementia: Demographics and Disease Burden**

*Traben Pleasant, PhD, Qualitative Analyst, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, OR, USA; Brooke Jespersen, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, OR, USA; Elizabeth Hulen, PhD, Qualitative Analyst, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, OR, USA; Rachel Wall, MS, Health Services Researcher, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, OR, USA; Allison O'Neill, MPH, Data Analyst, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, OR, USA; Travis Lovejoy, PhD, MPH, Clinical Director, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, OR, USA; Sarah Ono, PhD, Operations Director, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, OR, USA*

### **Case Studies: Midwifery Models in Two Rural Hospitals**

*Alyssa Fritz, MPH, Research Fellow, University of Minnesota School of Public Health; Maggie Thorsen, PhD, Montana State University; Emily Sheffield, MPH, Doctoral Candidate, University of Minnesota School of Public Health; Katy Backes Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA, Professor, University of Minnesota School of Public Health*

### **Telepsychotherapy Improves Outcomes for Rural Veterans with Parkinson's**

*Dr. Petty Tineo, Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow, War Related Illness and Injury Study Center, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Vibha Reddy, Research Assistant, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Dr. Rokas Perskudas, Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow, War Related Illness and Injury Study Center, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Kait Gilleran, Research Assistant, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Rachael B. Miller, Social Worker, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Lauren St. Hill, Social Worker, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Dr. Arlene King, Psychologist, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Dr. Laura Marsh, Mental Health Care Line Executive, Houston VA Medical Center; Dr. Aliya Sarwar, Neurologist/Director, Houston PADRECC, Houston VA Medical Center; Dr. Joel Mack, Psychiatrist, Portland PADRECC, VA Portland Healthcare System; Susan O'Connor, Nurse/Clinic Coordinator, Portland PADRECC, VA Portland*

*Healthcare System; Kristi Ketchum, Social Worker, Portland PADRECC, VA Portland Healthcare System; Marilyn Hinojosa-Lindsey, Social Worker, Houston VA Medical Center; Dr. Solomon Kalkstein, Psychologist, Philadelphia PADRECC, Philadelphia VA Medical Center; Meredith Shouse, Social Worker, Richmond PADRECC, Richmond VA Medical Center; Dr. Jessica Lehosit, Neurologist/Director, Richmond PADRECC, Richmond VA Medical Center; Dr. John Purcell, Mental Health Researcher, New Jersey VA Medical Center; Dr. Christopher Liong, Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow, War Related Illness and Injury Study Center, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Dawn McHale, Administrative Officer, Philadelphia PADRECC, Philadelphia VA Medical Center; Gretchen Glenn, Social Worker, Philadelphia PADRECC, Philadelphia VA Medical Center; Dr. John Duda, Neurologist, Philadelphia PADRECC, Philadelphia VA Medical Center; Dr. Alejandro Interian, Psychologist, New Jersey VA Healthcare System; Dr. Roseanne Dobkin, Psychologist, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Jersey VA Healthcare System*

### **Digital health in rural cardiovascular care: provider perspectives**

*Signe Burchim, MS – Department of Global Health, University of Washington; Susan Miller, PhD – Department of Global Health, University of Washington; Kristin Beima-Sofie, PhD, MPH – Department of Global Health, University of Washington; Angela Spencer, PhD, MBA – Department of Global Health, University of Washington; Brekken Cogswell – Department of Global Health, University of Washington; Adiya Jaffari, MD – Department of Medicine, University of Washington; Elena Wadden, MD – Department of Medicine, University of Washington; Monica Zigman Suchsland, MPH, PhD – Department of Family Medicine, University of Washington; Allison Cole, MD, MPH – Department of Family Medicine, University of Washington; Ryan Gilles, MD – Kootenai Clinic Family Medicine Coeur d'Alene Residency, University of Washington; Charles Jose, MD, MPH – PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center; Steven Elrod, PharmD – Providence Chehalis Family Medicine; Kelly McGrath, MD, MS – Clearwater Valley Health, St. Mary's Health; Peg Gehring, FNP, DNP – St. Mary's Health; Rusty Baker, PhD – Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Program, Idaho Office of Underserved and Rural Medical Research, University of Idaho; Chris Longenecker, MD – Department of Global Health, University of Washington*

### **Improving Cardiac Risk Stratification in a Rural Emergency Department**

*Kathryn Kidd, RN Stroke/Chest Pain Coordinator, Ashley Regional Medical Center; Nolan Brooksby, DO, Emergency Medicine Physician, Ashley Regional Medical Center; Alyssa Jenkins, MHA, Program Consultant, American Heart Association; Lori Hollowell, RN, Director, American Heart Association*

### **Student/Student Mentoring: a Plus for Rural Dental Education**

*Danelle Crout, High School Student, William T. Dwyer High School, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; Gerald R. Hobbs, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Statistics, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia; Richard J. Crout, DMD, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Periodontics, West Virginia University School of Dentistry, Morgantown, West Virginia*

### **Addressing Syphilis/HIV in Rural South Dakota Jail**

*Holly Gerberding, MS3, USD SSOM; Bailey Smith, MS3, USD SSOM; Anora Henderson, MD, USD SSOM*

### **Which groups are most affected by brain injury?**

*Fauzia Ahmed*

### **Transportation Access Impact on Healthcare for Rural Hawai'i**

*John Desfor, MPH, Policy and Data Analyst, UH RHRPC; Reinie Gerrits-Goh, PhD, Social Science Research Institute, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Aimee Malia Grace, MD, MPH, FAAP, Director, Office of Strategic Health Initiatives University of Hawai'i (UH) System*

### **Rural Pediatric Clinicians: Identifying and Supporting their Needs**

*Erika Davis, PhD, MPH, Manager of Program Evaluation, AAP; Oyin Oloniniyi, MPH, Program Manager, ECHO Initiatives, AAP; Rosalinda Saucedo, MS, CHES, Program Manager, Rural Health, AAP; Julia Matakis, MPH, Senior Manager, Mental Health Programs, AAP; Erin Kelly, PhD, Director, Mental & Relational Health, AAP; Julie Gorzkowski, MSW, Senior Director, Healthy Mental Development, AAP*

### **Tech to Connect: Teleconsultation Supports Pediatric Mental Health**

*Rosalinda Saucedo, MS, CHES, Program Manager, Rural Health, AAP; Joie Frankovich, LCSW, MPH, Manager, Mental Health Initiatives, AAP; Julia Matakis, MPH, Senior Manager, Mental Health Programs, AAP; Erika Davis, PhD, MPH, Manager of Program Evaluation, AAP; Oyin Oloniniyi, MPH, Program Manager, ECHO Initiatives, AAP; Lisa Brock, LCSW, Program Manager, ECHO Initiatives, AAP; Erin Kelly, PhD, Director, Mental and Relational Health, AAP; Julie Gorzkowski, MSW, Senior Director, Healthy Mental Development, AAP*

### **HIV Care and Treatment in Rural Communities**

*HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau*

### **Conflict, negotiation, and strategies for realignment in QI**

*Chloe Warpinski, MD/PhD Trainee University of Florida*

### **Implementation and Scaling of Brief CBT for Rural Veterans**

*Jeffrey Cully (Houston VA; South Central MIRECC; Baylor College of Medicine); Mignogna Joe (VA; Rocky Mountain MIRECC); Derrecka Boykin (Houston VA; Baylor College of Medicine); Andrew Robinson (Houston VA); Darrell Zeno (Houston VA; South Central MIRECC); Shubhada Sansgiry (Houston VA; Baylor College of Medicine)*

### **Low-Earth Orbit Satellite Internet Feasibility among Rural Veterans**

*Natalie Suiter, BA, Study Coordinator; Shaliyah Mays, CATI Interviewer; Kindra Woodman, CATI Interviewer; Julia Walhof, MPH, Qualitative Analyst; Kenda Steffensmeier, PhD, Qualitative Co-Investigator; Bradley Mecham, PhD, Data Manager; Bjarni Haraldsson, MS, Statistical Analyst; Holly Strehlow, CATI Core Manager; Amy M.J. O'Shea, PhD, Principal Investigator. All authors' affiliation includes the Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Iowa City, VA Office of Rural Health, and Center for Access and Delivery Research and Evaluation (CADRE) at the Iowa City VA Healthcare System; In addition, Dr. O'Shea affiliations also include the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine*

### **Urban-rural disparities in multiple chronic conditions**

*Yong Liu, statistician, CDC; Kathleen B Watson, epidemiologist, CDC; Susan A Carlson, epidemiologist, CDC; Hua Lu, geographer, CDC; Benjamin Lee, fellow, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education; Kunthea Nhim, epidemiologist, CDC; Kurt J Greenlund, epidemiologist, CDC*

### **Characteristics Related to Rural Disparities in Maternal Outcomes**

*Carter Collins, B.S., Research Assistant, Rural and Minority Health Research Center; Cassie L. Odahowski, PhD, MPH, Rural and Minority Health Research Center*

### **Rural/Urban Residence and Racial Disparities in HIV Care**

*Daisy Ramirez-Ortiz, PhD, MPH, Research Assistant Professor, Florida International University; Shelbie Burchfield, MPH, Research Coordinator, Florida International University; Patrice S. Lewis, BS, Graduate Research Assistant, Florida International University; Giselle A. Barreto, MPH, Graduate Research Assistant, Florida International University; Tan Li, PhD, Associate Professor, Florida International University; Mary Jo Trepka, MD, MSPH, Professor and Chair, Florida International University; Colby Cohen, MPH, Epidemiologist, Florida Department of Health; Diana M. Sheehan, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, Florida International University*

### **Community Conversations that Matter**

*Catherine Hudson, DrPH, MPH, Sr. Director, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; Billy U Philips, Jr., PhD, MPH, Executive Vice President and Director, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center*

### **Benefits of PCMH regarding diabetes on the CTUIR**

*Aubrey Dawson BA, MS4, OHSU; Eric Wiser MD, OHSU; Angie Dearing PharmD, Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center*

### **Data Systems Comparison for Rural Non-Fatal Injury**

*Andrea Carmichael, MPH, Health Scientist, CDC NCIPC DIP; Karin Mack, PhD, Associate Director for Science, CDC NCIPC DIP*

### **Enhancing Patient Satisfaction Through Leadership in Rural Hospitals**

*Nikhil Patel, Student Researcher, Vanderbilt University, Duke Margolis Institute for Health Policy; Devdutta Sangvai, MD, JD, MBA, Duke University; Aparna Kamath, MD, Hospitalist, Duke Raleigh Hospital*

### **Project RISE-Transforming Patient Experience (HCAHPS) through Rural Health Innovations and Strategies for Equity- A Success Story**

*Suneel K Parvathareddy, MBBS, MS, MBA, CPE, CHCQM; Ashley M Voisinet, BS*

### **Obstetrical Services Offered in Nonurban Kansas Counties**

*Annie Carlson, MS3; Brenda Aguirre, MS3; Leny Montero, MBA; Laurel B. Witt, MD, MPhil; Michael Kennedy, MD*

### **Innovative Services: A Revenue Lifeline for Rural Hospitals**

*Nina McLain, Ph.D., CRNA, FAANA, Professor, The University of Southern Mississippi*

### **Diabetes Distress Assessment System (T2-DDAS/T1-DDS) Implementation with Rural Living Veterans**

*Beth Greck PharmD, WNCVAHCS; Mara Vitols DrPH, Wake Forest SOM; Paula Richley Geigle PT, MS, PhD, Research Specialist, WNCVAHCS*

**Trauma-Informed Care in Rural Midwest Organizations**

*Jennifer Kuo, PhD, Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow, City of Hope Medical Center; Natalie Garcia-Justiniano, PhD, Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Kansas Medical Center; Shawna Wright, PhD, Director, KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth, University of Kansas Medical Center; Whitney Henley, MPH, University of Kansas Medical Center; Ann Manzardo, PhD, University of Kansas Medical Center; Edward E. Hunter, PhD, University of Kansas Medical Center*

**Farm2Table: FreshRx Cultivating Confidence in Diabetes Self-Management**

*Will Koopal MSPAS PA-C, Albany Area Primary Health Care & Alex Friedl MSPAS PA-S*

DRAFT