

USC Gehr Center for Health Systems Science

Current Active Projects List

Last updated:
December 11, 2017

- 1) AltaMed CDC REACH Program (Healthy Communities, Healthy Lives)
 - Led by **Michael Hochman** (final project year)
 - The project targets improving nutrition, physical activity and lack of access to chronic disease prevention in underserved communities in East LA.
 - Students could help analyze the final data from the project

- 2) Understanding Access and Use of Insurance Under the Affordable Care Act
 - Led by **Sonali Saluja**
 - We are developing a patient survey to understand the barriers and facilitators to obtaining, maintaining and using insurance after implementation of the ACA in LA County. We will use results from the survey to develop strategies for improving processes of communication with patients regarding insurance enrollment and accessing care.
 - Students conducted qualitative interviews with patients over the summer of 2017 which will be used to develop the survey instrument

- 3) Access to Care for Undocumented People – An analysis of county level programs within California
 - Led by **Sonali Saluja** and Xiaohan Zhang (Cal State LA)
 - This project involves analyzing the variability in county level programs that provide some healthcare coverage for poor, undocumented people in California. We will be using various public and restricted data sets to determine the impact of these county level programs on healthcare access and utilization for their target population
 - We may also convert this to a secret shopper style study to see where patients can get care and where they are having difficulty.

- 4) Writing a systematic review about the impact of the Affordable Care Act
 - Led by **Sonali Saluja**
 - This project would involve conducting a review of articles about the impact of the ACA on a particular health outcome or healthcare utilization pattern and ultimately writing a paper for publication. This would involve working closely with librarian and your mentor. We are open to working on other health policy related topics as well.

- 5) Development of a provider dashboard to reduce length of stay and waiting times in the LAC+USC ED
 - Led by **Welmoed van Deen**

- Audit and feedback interventions have been shown to result in small to moderate improvements in quality of care in healthcare settings. However, which factors could improve or reduce effectiveness remains largely unclear, and little attention has been given to the behavioral psychology underlying these responses, and to design practices that can be used to address this. In this multi-disciplinary study we work with a group of researchers from the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, the School of Cinematic Arts, the School of Medicine, and the Business School to develop and test an evidence and theory based audit and feedback intervention while incorporating aspects of motivational and user centric design.
- 6) Development of a preference-weighted symptom measure for inflammatory bowel diseases
- Led by **Welmoed van Deen**
 - In this project a series of focus group and a patient survey will inform the development of a symptom score for IBD patients, which takes patients' preferences into account.
- 7) Variation in value in inflammatory bowel disease care in a multi-center learning health system
- Led by **Welmoed van Deen**
 - Inflammatory bowel disease treatment is beset with wide practice variation and high treatment costs, mostly related to the use of highly efficacious but expensive biologicals, are a major concern. In this study we collaborate with a network of IBD practices that participate in the IBD Qorus system, a learning health system that facilitates patient-provider communication, data collection, and sharing of best practices. Using prospectively collected outcome and utilization data we will assess variations in value of care within the participating institutions. We will assess the health related utility of collected outcomes; we will validate self-reported utilization metrics; and develop a cost and value-model for IBD care.
- 8) Demonstration to improve hypertension control among USC employees:
- Led by **Michael Hochman**
 - Project in early phases
 - Working with Jehni Robinson from Keck and Sati Patel, USC Resident
 - Plan to conduct a pilot demonstration of a pharmacist intervention for improving blood pressure control
- 9) Evaluating CareMore's 'Nifty After Fifty' Program:
- Led by **Michael Hochman and Gabe Waterman**
 - CareMore is an innovative health care system focused on "high needs, high cost" patient populations. CareMore has developed an exercise program for frail elderly patients.
 - The purpose of this project is to evaluate the impact of the program on several outcomes, including depression scores, activities of daily living, loneliness, and healthcare utilization

10) Health Policy Core Curriculum for Keck Medical Students

- Led by **Sonali Saluja**
- We are developing a health policy course that will be integrated into the core curriculum for all Keck medical students. The course will include lectures and discussions about health systems, healthcare reform, payment structures, health outcomes, health disparities and other topics that are an integral part of practicing medicine today.
- A student could help with the curriculum design and evaluation of the program.

11) Development of a Safety Net Clinic Scorecard in Los Angeles County

- Led by **Michael Hochman** and the Annenberg School of Communication
- The Gehr team is creating a score card of quality and patient experience measures at safety net clinics in Los Angeles County.
- We are using the Freedom of Information Act to obtain health performance data on IPAs from LA Care.
- A student project could focus on helping our team develop this scorecard.

12) Blog Writing

- Led by **Michael Hochman**
- The Gehr Center edits and produces blogs (e.g.: <http://gehrcenter.usc.edu/programs/gehr-center-blog-series/>) published for MedPage Today, the Center for Health Journalism, and other publications.
- A student project could involving writing a series of 2-4 blog pieces over the course of the summer.

13) Evidence-based Medicine App:

- Led by **Michael Hochman**
- Gehr Center to develop an app summarizing landmark studies in clinical medicine and operations, based on the *50 Studies Every Doctor Should Know* series: www.50studies.com
- Student project could focus on helping to disseminate the app and writing updates for the app.

14) CRC screening patient navigation at DHS

- Led by **Rusha Modi**
- Currently working to find opportunities to increase screening for colorectal cancer at LAC by coordinating with DOM. Current screening rates are suboptimal and patients suffer from numerous barriers including literacy, fear of procedure and cancer diagnosis, transportation challenges, perceived cost, lack of trust in healthcare system among others. We are developing a data analytic flow to find the bottle necks in the screening process and devising QI interventions to address these challenges. Another “in utero” project is qualitative surveys of DHS patients regarding knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of the the multitude modalities of CRC screening.
- Student project could focus on data gathering, performing interviews

15) Options for payment reform among safety net providers in California

- Led by: **Michael R Cousineau**
- To develop a plan for a research study on the implementation of Medi-Cal payment reform strategies
- Funder: The California Endowment
- Student project could focus on one or more aspects of payment reform including quality measures, non FQHC Medi-Cal providers

16) The Omada project, an online diabetes prevention program in three safety net clinics: LAC USC, Northeast valley health Corporation and Providence health systems, Monroe Washington

- Led by: **Michael R Cousineau**
- An evaluation of the online program in based on the National Diabetes Prevention Project in safety net settings
- Funder: The California Health Care Foundation
- Students can assist in analyzing data from these three sites

17) Effectiveness of enrollment strategies for navigators working in LAUSD Healthy Start programs

- Led by: **Michael Cousineau**
- Funder: CMMS
- Studying best practices in outreach and enrollment strategies in LAUSD
- Students can participate in analysis of data and qualitative studies of outreach and enrollment strategies