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) Improving Access to Primary Care for Vulnerable Patients
   - Led by Sonali Saluja
   - Based on qualitative interviews we conducted, we learned that safety net patients are struggling to find and maintain relationships with primary care providers. The goal of this project is to develop an intervention, probably with the help of navigators and/or community health workers, to help patients find and obtain care from primary care providers.
   - Students could help with project design, obtaining IRB approval and possibly interviewing navigators and/or community health workers

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 may also convert this to a secret shopper style study to see where patients can get care and where they are having difficulty.
   - Students could help with designing the study and applying for IRB approval. Depending on how far along we are, students could also help with data collection via secret shopper phone calls.

4) Writing a systematic review about the impact of the Affordable Care Act
   - Led by Sonali Saluja
   - This project involves 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.

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.
  - We would like as student to help with the evaluation of this program and possibly improving the course design

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 scorecard 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) Implementing and Evaluating a Mini-Palliative Care Training Program for Practicing Generalist Physicians:
  • Led by **Carin Van Zyl**
  • The Keck Palliative Care team has initiated a two-month palliative care training program for generalist physicians to help address the shortage of palliative care providers.
  • A student project could involve working with Dr. Van Zyl to evaluate this project. Is it helping these physicians become more comfortable with their palliative care skills?

13) Patient Views on Preventing Hospital Readmissions:
  • Led by **Albert Farias**
  • The Gehr Center is funded to identify patient and clinician views about preventing hospital readmissions in the primary care setting.
  • During the summer of 2018, we are looking for a student to conduct approximately 10-15 telephonic patient surveys of AltaMed patients about the challenges they encounter post hospital discharge.

14) Developing a Substance Abuse Detox Protocol in the LA County Men’s Jail:
  • Led by **Alia Moore and Lello Tesema**
  • The Gehr Center received a grant to evaluate the County’s new substance abuse protocol for newly incarcerated inmates.
  • We are looking for a student to help with this evaluation.

15) Blog Writing
  • Led by **Michael Hochman**
  • The Gehr Center edits and produces blogs (e.g.: [http://gehrcenter.usc.edu/programs/gehr-center-blog-series/](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.

16) 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.

17) CRC screening at Keck
   • Led by Rusha Modi
   • Two projects in this area. First, currently working on an project for IRB submission looking at how screening interest and preferences translate to actual behavior regarding prep based modalities for colorectal screening. Second, leading a Taskforce to improve colorectal cancer screening QI project at Keck, a tertiary care primarily surgically driven hospital.
   • Student project could focus on designing survey, educational materials regarding CRC screening

18) 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 selection of quality measures, the effects of incentives, the development and implementation of information technology, and the impact of payment reform strategies on providers including County DHS, FQHC and non FQHC Medi-Cal providers and private DSH hospitals.

19) Developing a strategy for integrating street medicine with fixed site primary care services for homeless people in Los Angeles County. Led by Michael Cousineau and Brett Feldman
   • Developing an inventory of street outreach projects and primary care sites
   • Reviewing the literature on best practices for street medicine strategies
   • Identifying barriers to integrating street services with fixed site primary care and mental health (including SUD) services.
   • Student project will lead to a white paper on street medicine integration

20) Evaluating 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 and Sue Kim
• 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
• This will include helping to write a paper on the efficacy of using mobile technology for prevention in safety net clinics.
• Some background in statistics helpful

21) Effectiveness of Medi-Cal and Obama Care enrollment strategies for school-based 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

22) All Of Us Project
• Led by: Daniella Meeker and **Welmoed van Deen**
• Nationwide NIH initiative to enroll 1,000,000 people in the U.S. in a research database and biobank as part of President Obama’s Precision Medicine Initiative
• At USC we will test different ways to recruit participants using principles of behavioral economics.
• Students can help develop the experiments, perform a literature review on participant engagement, and help start the study.

23) Patient experiences with colorectal cancer treatment
• Led by: **Albert Farias**
• Qualitative study to conduct focus groups with colorectal cancer patients to explore how patient experiences with care influence receipt of follow-up treatment
• Students can help recruit a racially diverse sample of patients who have been diagnosed with colorectal cancer and help conduct the focus groups,