

Jan Hutchins retires from UNCPN

Upon her retirement, NCNC gratefully thanks Jan Hutchins for her longtime partnership and assistance conducting important practice based research in North Carolina through the [UNC Physicians Network](#) (UNCPN). Jan has over four decades of experience in nursing management, project management and population health with proven success in leading large operations, project development, change management, and quality improvement. Most recently Jan has served as Vice President of [UNC Health Alliance](#), Population Health Services.



Jan has been a tremendous leader in the field. Over the past 10 years she has focused on the expansion of population health services at UNCPN, implementing care management programs in outpatient practices, standardizing processes and workflows, and championing data analytics and reporting needed to

support the management of populations.

Jan's retirement marks the end of an era for UNC Health Care. She was among the first leaders to build what was then known as Triangle Physicians Network or TPN, which is now known as UNC Physicians Network. Jan's professionalism, guidance and leadership will be deeply missed.

We sincerely thank Jan for her commitment to patients across the state of North Carolina and to UNC Health Care.

COVID-19 Registries

The Hero Registry

The Hero Registry is a [PCORI](#) funded registry of adults working in healthcare settings including providers, nurses, support staff, food service workers, researchers and others.



Healthcare Worker Exposure
Response & Outcomes

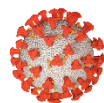
Registry participants can volunteer for research projects to help fight COVID-19 as well as provide feedback on priorities and concerns that will help

inform future research projects.

People can join the registry at heroesresearch.org/

They also are committed to sharing what they learn through the registry on their news page. You can follow them on twitter [@HeroesResearch](#)

COVID-19 Prevention Network



COVID-19
Prevention Network

The purpose of this screening registry is to create a list of potential volunteers who want to

take part in current or future COVID-19 prevention clinical trials. You must be 18 years or older to participate.

Participation involves completing a short online survey that includes some personal questions. People can find out about this registry as well as information about clinical trials in general, vaccines and antibodies, and the Moderna vaccine trial that is currently underway.

Volunteer at: coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org

COVID -19 Projects

The MAHEC Needs Assessment

[The Cecil G Sheps Center for Health Services Research](#)

(Sheps) is comprised of interdisciplinary physician and PhD level researchers, IT professionals, web application programmers, analytical programmers, experienced research staff, and students from all over campus. As COVID-19 forced research initiatives to a halt and people moved their offices to their homes, this group of talented individuals were eager to use their skills to help with this crisis from their bedrooms, kitchens, and home offices.

Jacquie Halladay, Research Professor of [Family Medicine at UNC](#), and Chair of the Research at the [Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville](#) (MAHEC) needed to find a team to help to build a web-based platform to support data collection and outreach efforts in the MAHEC region to understand the needs of primary care practices dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within days, a survey and data collection systems were developed and deployed to hundreds of practices in the MAHEC region. Medical students and other volunteers called primary care practices to inquire about training needs, setting up telehealth, supply shortages, behavioral health needs, and more. They connected practices with practice support coaches who provided direct support and relief along with daily video conference sessions where they could discuss telemedicine and COVID-19 cases and issues with peers and experts. Over 100 practices have responded to MAHEC-funded initiative. Currently about 40% of responding practices can offer COVID-19 testing and for the next two weeks 60% said they had enough N95 respirators; although that number decreases when asked about four weeks from now. All the data, including interactive maps can be found at the MAHEC website: pub.mahec.net/sites/pages/covidsurvey.

Statewide North Carolina Primary Care Needs Assessment

In response to COVID-19, Sheps, together with [North Carolina AHEC](#), and the [NC DHHS Office of Rural Health](#) (OHR), created and implemented a data collection system and survey focused on workforce and supply needs of primary care practices across the state of North Carolina. The system was inspired by a similar but smaller survey that targeted MAHEC practices, spearheaded by Jacquie Halladay. Brian Cass, with the help of Erica Richman and a team of Shepsters, worked tirelessly to create a system that was issued as a “Call to Action” by Roy Cooper, the NC Governor, and Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of NC DHHS when it was distributed via email by DHHS. One might assume that the State has a list of NC primary care practices to contact during emergency public health crises, but this is not the case. The grand challenge has been the collection of practice information; the team has successfully compiled 1,000 accurate practice contacts, but likely this is only one quarter of all NC primary care practices. Everyday NC AHEC, ORH, and Sheps continue their efforts to add practices, survey clinic personnel, and build the data system. Sheps is the perfect place to house the data; it has the advantage of being a neutral entity with the IT acumen and research infrastructure to execute such a project. We hope to maintain our partnerships and be ready to respond even faster next time North Carolina finds itself dealing with a public health crisis.

New and exciting opportunities have emerged from this collaboration. One of which is a large database comprised of COVID-19 survey response data from over 7 different State Partners. By compiling these surveys and making aggregate data available to stakeholders, NC will better be able to maximize its response to needs of its healthcare practices. An innovative use being developed is a comparison of NC Medicaid broadband desert data with cross-organization survey responses which will result in an interactive map of NC counties showing broadband access, telehealth uptake, and supply needs. The goal is to make this tool available via the Sheps website as soon as it’s complete.

These efforts were also supported by generous contributions of the [NC TraCS Institute](#) and [NC Biotechnology Center](#).

Atrium Health Community Research Partnership

[Atrium Health](#) is working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other large health

systems on a community study to learn more about COVID-19 and how it’s spreading in our region and around the world.



Atrium Health “teammates”, patients from different races ethnicities and neighborhoods who are 18 or older are invited to join.

Participants will complete short online surveys about possible exposures, symptoms, and healthcare visits. Some volunteers may be asked to complete an at-home test kit for antibodies to COVID-19. Antibodies are blood proteins your body makes if you have been exposed to a virus or bacteria.

Visit the study website at AtriumHealth.org/COVID19Research.

East Carolina Partnership Receives PCORI funding to Address Health Disparities through Engagement Research Training

NCNC congratulates Dr. Shiv Patel and Dr. Nancy Winterbauer the co-PIs for their recent [Eugene Washington Engagement Award](#) from PCORI.

Background: Type 2 diabetes (T2D) is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States. African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority groups are at higher risk for T2D and its complications compared to non-Hispanic whites. At the same time, African Americans are underrepresented in clinical research, including diabetes research.

Proposed Solution to the Problem: A community-based participatory research approach through partnership with the West Greenville Health Council (WGHC), a community-academic partnership rooted in the principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR) and clinicians primarily in the family medicine department at East Carolina University.

Objectives: The long-term goal of this project is to develop the process and capacity among patients, caregivers, community stakeholders, researchers, physicians, and clinical staff to conduct research that is clinically relevant, feasible in practice, meaningful and acceptable to patients, and scalable throughout the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM) system.

The project's specific aims are to:

- Create an advisory group, primarily, although not exclusively, affiliated with the ECU BSOM Department of Family Medicine diabetes clinics.
- Use a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach to develop an engagement plan; engage these stakeholders in the co-design of the total research process, from articulation of the research question through evaluation and dissemination of results.
- Evaluate the process, resources, and tools for scaling up the project BSOM-wide.

Other Outcomes:

- Increased awareness of patient-engaged research throughout the BSOM system.
- Increased willingness to participate in patient-engaged research among physicians in the BSOM system.
- Increased capacity within the BSOM system to conduct patient-engaged research.
- Patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) diabetes research agenda.
- Primary diabetes-focused PCOR research question and preliminary design.

NCNC New Positions

Katrina Donahue named to the US Preventive Task Force

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Family Medicine professor and vice chair of research, Katrina Donahue MD, MPH, has been appointed to the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/our-members) (Task Force) as one of its newest members.

"The Department of Family Medicine is proud to congratulate Dr. Donahue on this prestigious new appointment," said Margaret Helton, MD, Interim Chair of the department. "We are confident that her work on the intersections of public health and primary care and in assessing and improving health care delivery will serve the Task Force and health care community well."

The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. Members come from primary care and prevention-related fields, including internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, behavioral health, obstetrics/gynecology, and nursing. Members are appointed to serve a 4-year term.

To learn more about Dr. Donahue and all members of the Task Force, visit

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/our-members>.

Michelle Hernandez named Associate Director of Clinical Research of Pediatrics for the UNC Children's Research Institute

[The Children's Research Institute](http://www.unc.edu/childrens-research-institute) is a collaborative network for pediatric research at UNC to centralize efforts across campus.

In addition to Dr. Hernandez's research, she is working with Departmental leadership to foster pediatric clinical research and community outreach throughout the Department of Pediatrics and UNC Healthcare. In her role as Associate Director of Clinical Research, she will:

- Continue to build community outreach with community general pediatric and family medicine practices.
- Develop practice-based research opportunities for pediatric researchers with community pediatric and family medicine practices.
- Promote collaborations among investigators conducting pediatric research at UNC.
- Assist pediatric researchers in relaying their research findings to the primary care practices, parents, and community stakeholders.
- Develop and promote pediatric clinical trials at UNC Children's through enhancing trial efficiency and clinical relevance by using existing clinical data infrastructures to support research efforts.
- Provide mentorship to early-career physician-scientists interested in clinical research.

Acknowledging our supporters:

Thank You

NCNC would like to thank UNC's [Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research](http://www.unc.edu/cecil-g-sheps-center-for-health-services-research) and the [NC Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute](http://www.unc.edu/translational-and-clinical-sciences-institute) for all they do that make our

work possible.

