

December 13, 2022

The Newsletter

Newsletter Highlights

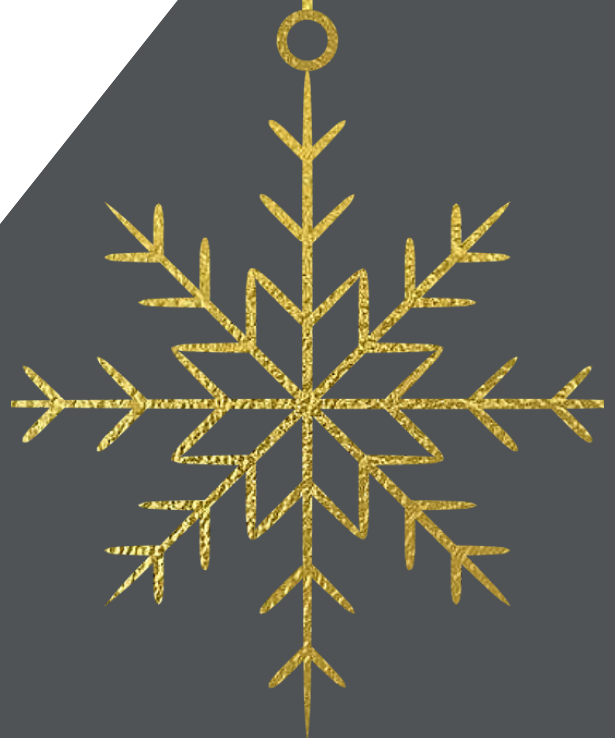
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

—Helen Keller

Teamwork has been a constant theme of the fall and early winter for the Robert Graham Center. I am so proud of what this small but mighty team has accomplished over the last few months.

October and November were busy with preparation for presentations at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting and the North American Primary Care Research Group Meeting (NAPCRG). Hoon Byun presented at APHA on the social deprivation index and health outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries. Our recent trip to Phoenix, Arizona for NAPCRG was a success with great representation from the RGC at poster and podium sessions (see below for details). We also had a wonderful time reconnecting with our larger family of scholars, fellows and collaborators at the annual Robert Graham Center reception and appreciate all of you who joined us to celebrate at NAPCRG.

In November we released the annual Primary Care Evidence report with our colleagues at the Primary Care Collaborative. This year's report "[*Relationships Matter. How Usual is Usual Source of \(Primary\) Care?*](#)" examined the decline in usual source of care in the United States. The report features a synthesis

of the existing literature on usual source of care, a new analysis on trends and disparities in usual source of care uptake and policy recommendations to improve this metric. Please make sure to take a look and share it on your social media accounts!

Our team continues to grow in new and exciting ways. We welcomed our new medical director, Alison Huffstetler, MD (back) to the team. Alison was a fellow at the Robert Graham Center and since has been with the research and clinical team at Virginia Commonwealth University. We are excited for all the talent and expertise Alison brings to the position! We are continuing the recruitment process for our permanent research director and hopefully will have a new staff member to introduce in the New Year. Finally, we are finishing our recruitment season for the 2023/2024 fellow and have some very talented candidates to choose from. It will be a hard decision as always.

As we move into the New Year, we wanted to thank you all for the support you have provided to the Robert Graham Center team in 2022. Much of what we have accomplished could not have been done without you and we are looking forward to another year of collaboration!

Yalda Jabbarpour, MD

THE VISITING SCHOLARS & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS CORNER

About the Visiting Scholars Program

The Robert Graham Center hosts a month-long visiting scholars program in health policy. This program is supported by a generous grant from the Pisacano Leadership Foundation, the philanthropic foundation of the American Board of Family Medicine. Visiting scholars work directly with staff on original research projects developed by the scholar on a topic of interest to them with the goal of a national publication and dissemination.

About the Fellowship Program

The Robert Graham Center in collaboration with Georgetown University co-sponsor a one-year fellowship in health policy and faculty development. Fellows work with Graham Center staff to address primary care health policy questions of interest. At the end of the year, fellows have completed a project of their choosing with dissemination on the national level.

NOVEMBER SCHOLAR FEATURE



By David Loxterkamp, MD, MA

My research project is a quantitative analysis of the evolving relationship between family physicians, advance practice clinicians, and the geospatial environment in which they practice. I will be looking at one state – my home state of Maine – to draw comparisons over time and across the country.

Maine is unique, but not alone, in being a white, rural, and elderly state. Between 2010 and 2020, Maine's population increased by 3.3%; the two southernmost

counties of York and Cumberland account for 97% of that increase. Maine's 6 northernmost counties lost population during the same time period. Maine has one physician assistant program and four nurse practitioner program; there are four family medicine residency programs in the state that collectively graduate 35 practitioners a year.

Along with the RGC's Interim Research Director, Steve Petterson, we will be mapping the following four variables:

- Occupation (primary care physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant)
- Location (by county and practice in Maine)
- Age (of the general and study population)
- Salary

I hope that our paper will draw attention to the rising number of APCs in primary care, especially in rural areas, and stimulate an important discussion on how best to utilize and integrate this key component of our primary care workforce.

INTRODUCING THE NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR



ALISON HUFFSTETLER, MD FAAFP

Alison N. Huffstetler, MD FAAFP, is a practicing family physician, Medical Director of the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Primary Care, Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Population Health at Virginia Commonwealth University and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Georgetown University. Dr. Huffstetler has a strong presence both clinically and as an educator at the Fairfax Family Medicine residency while balancing her role as a health services researcher. She maintains roots in clinical medicine to ensure a grounding of translational research. Her research portfolio includes concentration on the primary care workforce, equitable access to care, and women's health; she has peer reviewed publications in the areas of social determinants of health, workforce, telemedicine and preventive medicine. She is the research director for the Population Health Scholars Track at Georgetown University School of Medicine and collaborates with students to encourage early career research. She completed her specialty training in family medicine at the University of Virginia Family Medicine Residency. She went on to complete the Robert L. Phillips, Jr. Health Policy Fellowship at Georgetown University. Dr. Huffstetler is a board-certified Family Physician by the American Board of Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Alison enjoys playing guitar in her free time, reading historical non-fiction, and is a terrible cook.

"Primary care faces a critical fork in the road. We have to choose a path of how we practice, how we engage with the system, and how we keep communities healthy. We must choose to move forward and not remain stagnant. Let's choose the path that puts people first.."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Reflections From Family Medicine Residents on Training During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Family Physicians Providing Obstetric Care in Maternity Care Deserts](#)

[Digital Health Interventions to Enhance Prevention in Primary Care: Scoping Review](#)

[Comparable Quality Performance of Acute Low-Back Pain Care in Telemedicine and Office-Based Cohorts](#)

[Relationships Matter. How Usual is Usual Source of \(Primary\) Care?](#)

[The Association of Practice Type and the Scope of Care of Family Physicians](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

Release of the *Primary Care Scorecard* based on the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine Report in February 2023 with a webinar also in February 2023

A NAPCRG TO REMEMBER...



BEHIND THE SCENES FUN



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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