



**ROBERT
GRAHAM
CENTER**

Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care

THE NEWSLETTER

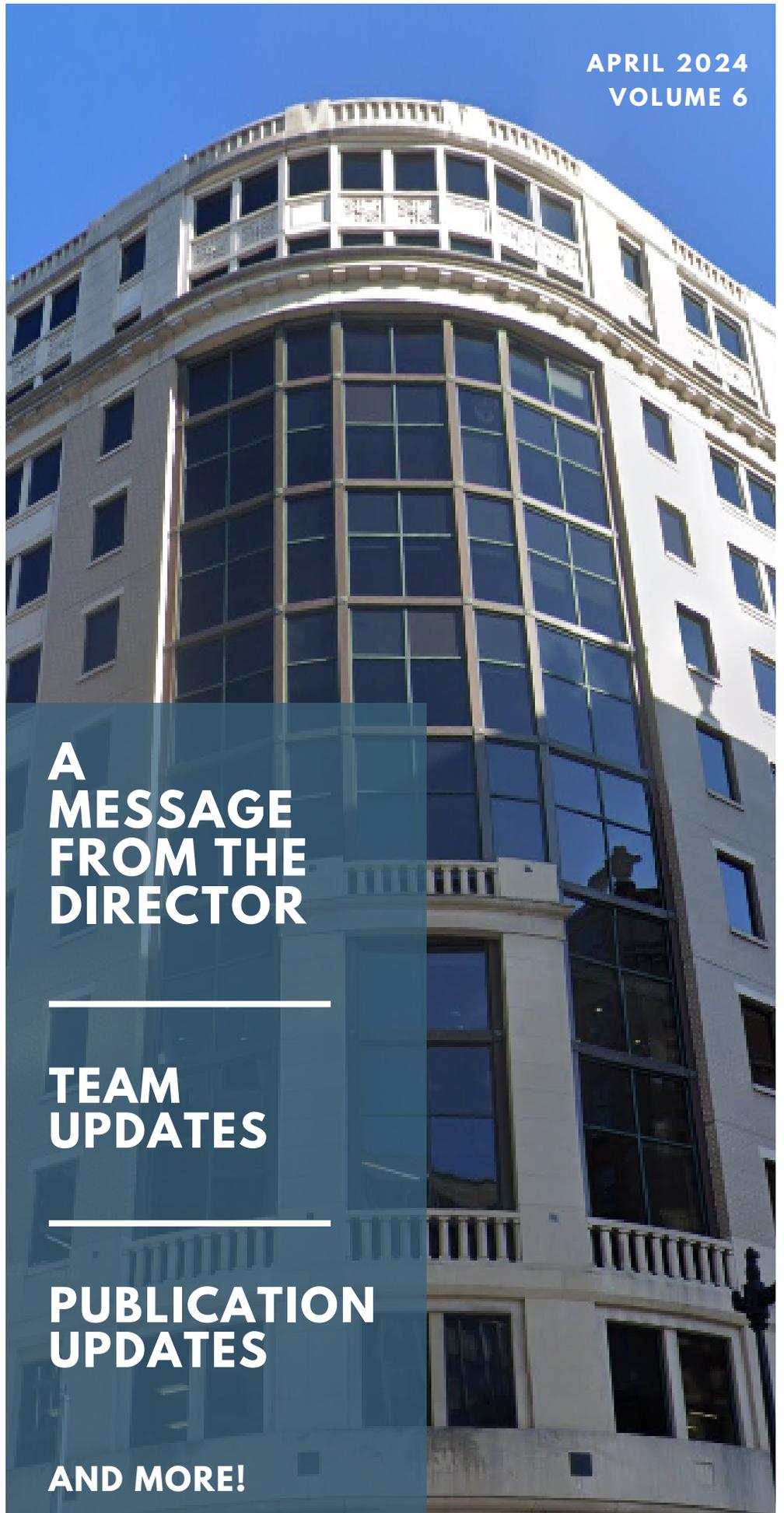
**APRIL 2024
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AND MORE!





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Dear Robert Graham Center Family and Friends,

As we embrace the arrival of spring, I'm delighted to take a moment to reflect on the exciting developments and accomplishments we've experienced at the Robert Graham Center in recent months.

I'm pleased to report the completion of the second year of our Primary Care Scorecard in partnership with the Milbank Memorial Fund and the Physicians Foundation. This milestone has been met with significant media attention, emphasizing the importance of our work in evaluating primary care. The kick off webinar was

a success with over 280 participants, thanks so many of you who tuned in. Be sure to explore the [newly created landing page on our website dedicated to the Primary Care Scorecard](#) and stay tuned as we embark on year three in partnership with Milbank.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting initiatives planned for the coming months. As we prepare to celebrate the Robert Graham Center's 25th anniversary, we are organizing a series of commemorative papers, features on X [formerly known as Twitter] highlighting past landmark studies, interviews with past scholars and fellows, and a celebratory event slated for the fall/winter season. Keep an eye out for forthcoming invitations as we honor this significant milestone.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your ongoing support and dedication to the Robert Graham Center. Your contributions are invaluable, and it is through our collective efforts that we are able to make meaningful strides in advancing primary care research.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Yalda Jabbarpour, MD

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER!



We welcome our newest RGC researcher, August LaBattaglia. His research experience includes a 9-month mentee experience with Dr. Huffstetler, focusing on the ideal volume of ice cream to improve fetal kicks. He is also interested in analysis of milk, specifically whether eating at 2:00 AM improves weight gain or if waiting until 6:00 is sufficient. His personal interests include listening to great music sung by his parents, humoring his mother's love of donuts, getting kisses from his dog, Hendrix, and smiling at everyone willing to make eye contact with him. He hopes his research time will bring joy to the rest of the team and provide levity when research gets tough. Feel free to reach out to him at ahuffstetler@aafp.org for collaboration or introductory meetings!

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.

SCHOLARS OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Marie Ezran, MD
Family Medicine
Resident

During my time at the Robert Graham Center, I will be contributing to a research project analyzing trends in primary care visits. As the primary care physician shortage continues to grow, clinicians such as advanced practice providers and clinical sites such as urgent care centers or retail clinics are increasingly playing a role in the delivery of health care. While these changes are instrumental in improving access to fast and quality care, it is also important to understand the uniquely longitudinal and comprehensive care that primary care physicians provide to patients.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with researchers at the RGC and to learn more about how public health research can inform policy decisions. After completing my medical training, I hope to both provide direct primary care to patients in a clinical setting and contribute to improving the healthcare system through my involvement with a health policy organization.

During my graduation year at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, I attended a presentation on the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP), the outpatient side of Maryland's Total Cost of Care model. The MDPCP aims to lower overall health system costs, reduce avoidable hospital admissions and emergency department visits, and improve certain quality outcomes such as hypertension and diabetes control. The program started in 2019 and accepted practices until 2024. Although not an objective of the program, I wondered whether it has had an impact on the primary care workforce in the state. During my month at the Robert Graham Center, I worked on piecing together a picture of the workforce data in the setting of this program to construct a potential "progress report" of its impact. This work may set the stage for a more robust analysis at MDPCP completion several years from now.



Laura Sirbu, MD
Internal Medicine
Physician, Preventive
Medicine Trainee

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[The Health Of US Primary Care 2024 Scorecard - No One Can See You Now: Five Reasons Why Access to Primary Care Is Getting Worse \(and What Needs to Change\)](#)

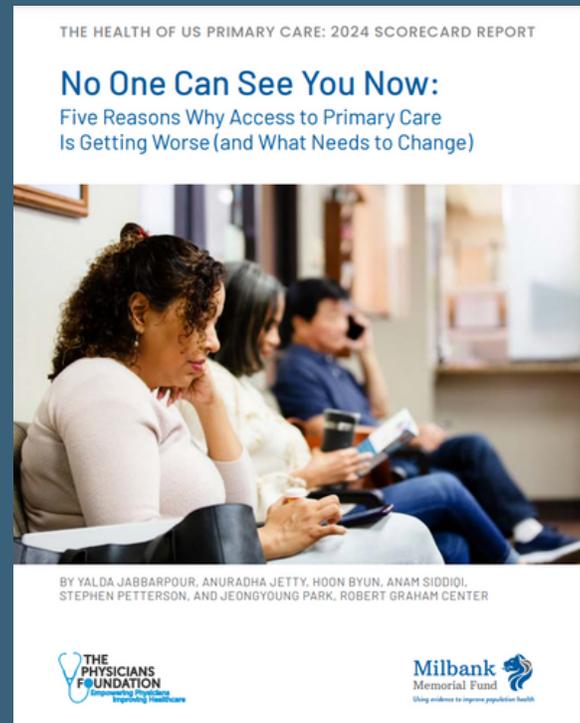
[Primary Care Access in Areas of the United States With Aging Populations](#)

[Osteopathic Medical Schools Produce an Increasing Proportion of Family Medicine Residents](#)

[Racial Inequities in Female Family Physicians Providing Women's Health Procedures](#)

[Family Medicine Research Is Not a Federal Priority](#)

MEDIA COVERAGE FOR THE PRIMARY CARE 2024 SCORECARD REPORT



- The Boston Globe: [Primary care access is declining in Mass., new data show: 'We have never, ever seen numbers fall like this'](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Seeing a Doctor Doesn't Have to Be So Frustrating](#)
- CBS News: [Michigan health experts say primary care doctor shortage will worsen if not addressed](#)

[See the full media coverage list](#)

UPCOMING STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- [MedStar Health - Georgetown University Research & Education Symposium -- April 29, 2024](#)
 - Hurricanes, Healthcare, and Health Equity (scoping review poster)
 - Factors that Contribute to Neonatal Mortality at a Community Hospital (resident research project poster)
- [STFM 2024 Annual Spring Conference -- May 4-8, 2024](#)
 - Dismantling Racism in Academic Family Medicine: Past Efforts and Future Climate (presentation)
 - The Relationship between Satisfaction and the Gender and Racial Wage Gap in Early Career Family Medicine Physicians (mixed methods poster in collaboration with ABFM)
 - The Impact of Hurricanes on the Primary Care Workforces in Louisiana (scoping review and preliminary results poster)
- [Academy Health 2024 Annual Research Meeting -- June 29-July 2](#)
 - Enabling Services Improve Diabetes Care Management for Patients Served at HRSA-Funded Health Centers (poster)
 - The Relationship Between Perceptions of Pain and Delays in Pain Medication Access Among Adult Patients at HRSA-Funded Health Centers (poster)
 - Factors Associated with Documenting Social Determinants of Health in Electronic Health Records by Family Physicians (poster)
 - Receipt of Preventive Care by Medicaid Beneficiaries: Does Racial/Ethnic Concordance with Their Family Physician Matter? (podium)



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