



**ROBERT
GRAHAM
CENTER**

The Newsletter

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*SCIENCE KNOWS NO COUNTRY, BECAUSE
KNOWLEDGE BELONGS TO HUMANITY,
AND IS THE TORCH WHICH ILLUMINATES
THE WORLD.*

— LOUIS PASTEUR

Dear Robert Graham Center Family and
Friends,

In an era when the lamps of evidence and compassion is so often dimmed by political storms and skepticism, Pasteur's words resonate with renewed urgency. The path to progress in healthcare is strewn with obstacles: diminished support, polarized discourse, and a rising tide of anti-science sentiment. Yet, it is precisely in moments such as these that our resolve is tested and our dedication to research and science becomes the beacon that guides us forward.

Autumn brings a flurry of activity to the Robert Graham Center, and I'm excited to share some highlights from our work. We are delighted to welcome Joshua Smith, our new fellow from The Christ Hospital/University of Cincinnati. Being a resident from a dual family medicine/psychiatry residency, Joshua brings fresh perspective and energy, and we are eager to see the contributions he'll make to our ongoing work and the broader primary care community.

Our team is deeply engaged in year four of the Primary Care Scorecard analysis, continuing to refine our understanding of primary care trends and challenges nationwide. This year the scorecard will be focused on primary care's role in preventing and treating chronic disease. We are also focused on this year's Primary

Care Collaborative report, which focusses on rural health. Rural communities often face unique challenges, from limited access to care and workforce shortages to geographic and socioeconomic barriers that can widen disparities. These realities make our research not only timely but vital.

Another key priority is our study on barriers to vaccination in primary care, conducted in partnership with our research colleagues from ABFM. This mixed methods project, with qualitative work led by Melissa Filippi and valuable support from Anam Siddiqi, has already revealed intriguing insights into the challenges physicians and practices face when trying to vaccinate their patients. These findings are paving the way for actionable solutions. We look forward to the quantitative results led by Jeongyoung Park and Anuradha Jetty at the RGC and Nathaniel Hendrix at the ABFM, which will help clarify how demographic and state-level factors shape vaccination rates.

Finally, preparations are in full swing for the upcoming NAPCRG annual conference in Atlanta. Our team will be presenting dozens of posters and presentations on topics ranging from GME accountability to vaccination strategies in primary care. The opportunity to connect, share, and learn with colleagues always drives our work forward. Please keep your eye out for an invitation to our annual get together at the conference.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we continue to shape the future of primary care.

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.

FELLOW FEATURES



Joshua Smith, MD, MPH

Joshua Smith, MD, MPH is a Family Physician and Psychiatrist joining as the Robert L. Phillips Jr. Health Policy Fellow. A proud Midwesterner, Josh grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and earned his undergraduate degree at Washington University in St. Louis. He then returned home to complete an MD/MPH program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Most recently, he completed a combined residency in Family Medicine and Psychiatry at The Christ Hospital/University of Cincinnati.

Josh is especially interested in improving systems of care for patients with complex bio-psycho-social needs and exploring the intersections of health and public policy. At the Robert Graham Center, he looks forward to deepening his skills in health services research and learning how to leverage large datasets to inform meaningful policy change.

Outside of work, Josh enjoys running around D.C.'s monuments, reading, and rewatching his favorite sitcoms.



Shikha Chandarana, PhD

Dr. Shikha Chandarana, PhD (she/her) is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Health Equity at Georgetown University's Department of Family Medicine and the Robert Graham Center. She holds a PhD in Social and Behavioral Sciences from George Washington University, where her dissertation focused on acculturative stress and intimate partner violence among immigrant communities. Her broader research portfolio spans maternal and child health, immigrant and refugee health, queer health, and social determinants of health, with a strong emphasis on both quantitative and mixed methods approaches.

She is particularly interested in identifying the pathways to violence prevention through family medicine—leveraging the trusted role of primary care to improve screening, intervention, and support for individuals and families at risk. She also teaches at the University of Maryland and George Washington University, where she designs and leads courses on global health, intimate partner violence, and public health research methods.

SCHOLAR FEATURES



Juan Carlos Lozano, MD

Dr. Juan Carlos Lozano is a family doctor passionate about bridging gaps in healthcare access. He graduated from the Scripps Health Family Medicine residency in 2023 with a focus on border health in San Diego. After working as a PCP in Chula Vista, CA, he joined the National Clinician Scholars Program at UCSF where he is currently a clinician researcher. His current research includes evaluating a Chronic Care Model for Diabetes, developing a health economic model to predict primary care investment effects, and assessing immigrant community health disparities. As a visiting scholar, he is excited to work with his Robert Graham Center colleagues to develop a nationally applicable framework for defining primary care spend.

Molly Stegman is a fourth-year medical student at Penn State College of Medicine—University Park, with a B.S. in Biology and Spanish from Virginia Tech. Her experience as an EMT and medical scribe sparked her passion for family medicine and caring for underserved communities. At Penn State, she has led the LionCare free clinic, founded the Immigrant Health Interest Group, participated in both the Global Health Scholars and AHEC Scholars programs, and pursued research in health equity, maternal-child health, and provider burnout. As a visiting scholar, Molly is excited to integrate her interests in underserved care, advocacy, and research, with a focus on studying Medicaid work requirements.



Molly Stegman, MD Candidate

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- [The Geographic Distribution of Family Physicians Providing Maternity Care and Opportunities for Expanding Access to Care in Rural Areas](#)
- [Pathways To Primary Care: Charting Trajectories From Medical School Graduation Through Specialty Training](#)
- [Neighborhood Determinants of Primary Care Access in Virginia](#)
- [Assessment of Primary Care Team-based Learning Sessions for Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- [Factors that Contribute to Neonatal Mortality at a Community Hospital](#)
- [Shifting Patterns of Vaccine Delivery Before and After COVID-19: The Declining Role of Primary Care](#)
- [Hurricanes, the Primary Care Workforce, and Health Outcomes: A Scoping Review](#)
- [AHRQ's National Center for Excellence in Primary Care Research \(NCEPCR\): A New Home for Primary Care Research](#)
- [The Gender Pay Gap in Medicine: Current Efforts to Address an Age-Old Problem](#)

RGC In the News

- [Clinicians Warn Medicaid May Push Them Out of Practice](#)
- [Nearly half of Virginians lack adequate access to primary care, VCU study finds \(Annals of Family Medicine, Robert Graham Center\)](#)
- [Primary care shortage affects 44% of Virginia's neighborhoods and almost 3.8 million residents \(Annals of Family Medicine, Robert Graham Center\)](#)
- [Nearly half of Virginia neighborhoods don't have enough primary care doctors, study finds \(Annals of Family Medicine\)](#)

2025 NAPCRG ACCEPTED SUBMISSIONS SO FAR

ORAL PRESENTATIONS ON COMPLETED RESEARCH

1. Continuity of Care among Primary Care Clinicians Serving Medicaid Beneficiaries
2. No ICD10 Code? No problem: Strategies for identification of OUD in the EHR
3. Wellness and Burnout Across the Medical Training Spectrum: Contrasting Perceptions of Wellbeing
4. Primary Care's Historic & Evolving Role in Vaccination
5. Measuring the Impact of Family Medicine Graduate Medical Education (GME) on Community Need: Introducing the GME-IQ
6. "Workaholism is not professionalism": Family Physician Perspectives on Work-Life Balance and 9-5 Jobs
7. "Companies have all the say": Family Physician Thoughts on Unionization and Collective Action
8. Primary Care Usual Source of Care among Medicaid Beneficiaries
9. Family medicine providing obstetric care: impacts on maternal deaths and stillbirths in United States maternity care deserts
10. Proximity to Residency Training Programs Still Matters for Practice Location
11. Screening Colonoscopies Overused- and Harmful

POSTERS ON COMPLETED RESEARCH

1. Practice and Characteristics of Board-Certified Family Physicians Who Provide Care in Spanish
2. Hepatitis C (HCV) Treatment by U.S. Family Physicians
3. Exploring the Impact of Medicaid Cuts on Access to Care by Congressional District
4. "I've never worn a white coat, ever." – Evolving Appearance and Aesthetics in Medicine
5. Developing Peer Counties in Virginia for Translational Research

POSTERS ON RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

1. Pathways from Residency Training into Primary Care Practice
2. Applying Qualitative Methods to a Reviewer Panel Evaluating a Best Practices Guide for Increasing Vaccine Uptake
3. Exploring Barriers and Solutions to Increasing Vaccination in Primary Care
4. Barriers to Vaccination in Primary Care

WORKSHOPS

1. Is There a Bridge Over Troubled Waters? Navigating US health research in 2025 and beyond
2. How to use research to inform primary care policy: Lessons learned from NASEM's Standing Committee on Primary Care



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