

THE INSTITUTES AT NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE

# INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE AT NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE STUDIES



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The United States healthcare delivery system faces many challenges including the care of an aging population with increasing chronic illness, the significant health disparities of our population, and the unsustainable increase of medical costs. To address these challenges, a restructure and redesign of the healthcare system is required with interdisciplinary and collaborative groups of researchers providing evidence-based solutions.

At Northwestern University, we have long recognized the important role of academia in bringing together scholars and experts from many disciplines to explore, innovate, and create new and impactful knowledge intended to ameliorate our healthcare system. These disciplines include medicine, business, law, economics, policy, engineering, psychology, sociology, and anthropology. Nearly 40 years ago, in 1977, Northwestern University established the Center for Health Services and Policy Research. In 1995, the current Center for Healthcare Studies emanated from this center and was created at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. The Center for Healthcare Studies plays a vital role in the Institute for Public Health and Medicine at Northwestern Medicine.

Our Center is conducting leading-edge research on the delivery, equity, safety and quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of healthcare through interdisciplinary, multi-departmental collaborations among health services and outcomes researchers and clinicians. Our goal is for this work to inform and shape healthcare policy and to improve healthcare practices and the health of the nation. The extensive research expertise, skills, knowledge, and activities of our Center's faculty and staff are also foundational for Northwestern's graduate education programs in the health sciences.

During the past decade, the Center for Healthcare Studies has created eight programs with each focusing on a critical context of healthcare or an area of methodological expertise:

- Program for Quality and Safety Innovation
- Program for Healthcare Equity
- Program for Healthcare Policy and Implementation
- Program for Maternal and Child Health
- Chronic Disease Care and Outcomes Program
- Health Economics Program
- Program for Childhood Allergy
- Program for Surgical Quality Improvement and Outcomes



“The Center for Healthcare Studies is currently engaged in novel studies and projects in collaboration with a wide array of clinical disciplines. These collaborations focus on providing robust evidence for innovative reforms and redesigns of the healthcare system to improve healthcare practice and the health of the nation.”

Jane L. Holl, MD, MPH, Director, Center for Healthcare Studies



### **Program for Quality and Safety Innovation**

Through our Program for Quality and Safety Innovation, our researchers are engaged in applying innovative risk assessment methods that are adapted from other high-risk industries. They are using implementation science in diverse clinical disciplines including pediatrics, obstetrics, solid organ transplantation, family planning, emergency medicine, and surgery. The goals are to effectively redesign systems and processes of care, develop novel measures of healthcare quality, and create models and methods to inform patients.

### **Program for Healthcare Equity**

Our Program for Healthcare Equity focuses on documenting and describing the persisting disparities in health and healthcare and developing and evaluating practice and policy interventions at the individual, healthcare, and community levels to improve health and healthcare equity.

### **Program for Healthcare Policy and Implementation**

US healthcare policy is undergoing substantial change with the Affordable Care Act. Our Program for Healthcare Policy and Implementation is actively engaged in exploring the impact of new policies and evaluating and testing potential policy approaches to optimize improved health and healthcare.

### **Program for Maternal and Child Health**

Our Program for Maternal and Child Health is engaged in addressing healthcare delivery for children with a particular focus on addressing childhood antecedents of adult chronic conditions such as premature birth, asthma, and obesity.



### **Chronic Disease Care and Outcomes Program**

As the US population ages, the prevalence of chronic illness is increasing and contributing to poor quality of life and unsustainable healthcare costs. Our Chronic Disease Care and Outcomes Program is focused on developing novel approaches to prevent and improve outcomes of chronically ill patients.

### **Health Economics Program**

The United States spends more on healthcare than any other industrialized nation while experiencing lower life expectancy and health status. Our Health Economics Program is engaged in the economic and cost evaluations of a wide range of healthcare conditions and delivery settings.

### **Program for Childhood Allergy**

Childhood allergic conditions such as food allergy and asthma continue to increase. Our Program for Childhood Allergy seeks to understand the underlying causes, as well as improve the delivery of care to optimize outcomes.

### **Program for Surgical Quality Improvement and Outcomes**

Surgery is a complex context of healthcare that involves many systems and processes of care. Our Program for Surgical Quality Improvement and Outcomes focuses on developing and implementing innovative approaches to improve the quality and safety of surgery and improve post-operative outcomes.

## THROUGH NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE, WE ARE CREATING A NATIONAL EPICENTER FOR HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ADVOCACY.

### Northwestern Medicine

Northwestern Memorial HealthCare and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine are seeking to impact the health of humankind through Northwestern Medicine. We aspire to be the destinations of choice for people seeking quality healthcare; for those who provide, support, and advance that care through leading-edge treatments and breakthrough discoveries; and for people who share our passion for educating future physicians and scientists. Our commitment to transform healthcare and to be among the nation's top academic medical centers will be accomplished through innovation and excellence.

Our new Institute for Public Health and Medicine is comprised of world-class centers that serve as a nexus for innovation, collaboration, and growth in research. The Center for Healthcare Studies is an integral part of the Institute. Through both the Center and the Institute, we are working to innovate and introduce public health solutions to address the biggest health challenges of our time. At Northwestern, we recognize that without dramatic changes in our approach to public health and healthcare delivery, we will confront surging, unsustainable costs and an inability to meet the healthcare needs of our citizens. We see this urgent need as a tremendous opportunity to provide leadership and a new direction to improve the health of our nation and world.

For more information about supporting the Center for Healthcare Studies, please contact:

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