

FALL 2023

# RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

*Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine*



For more info,  
please visit our website:

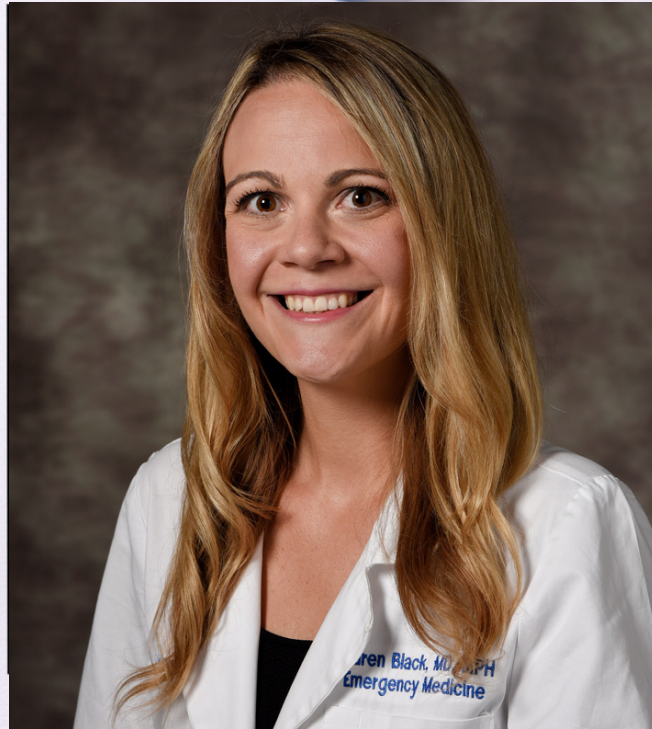
[www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/  
sites/emergencymed/research](http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/emergencymed/research)

## DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The Department of Emergency Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine publishes this quarterly research newsletter to highlight department newcomers, Q & A sections from current faculty and alumni, faculty and residency research spotlights, publications updates, and many more features.

# WELCOME!

## NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Lauren Black MD, MPH

Dr. Lauren Page Black completed her undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University. She earned her Medical Degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine and her Master's in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed her residency in Emergency Medicine at UF Jacksonville where she was Chief Resident, followed by a fellowship in Emergency and Acute Care Research. Her research interests are in using data science and large clinical databases to improve the care of patients with sepsis and other emergent critical illnesses. She is funded by a K23 Award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. She was previously funded by a KL2 from the National Institute of Health National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her husband, Weston, their sons Grey and Sage, and their dog, Chase.



# WELCOME!

## NEW RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

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Phillip Bragg

Phillip is a recent Northwestern graduate beginning in his first full-time role since finishing school. His background includes many years of experience participating in clinical research and most recently organized his own qualitative research project studying and interviewing Tibetan Buddhists in rural India about their attitudes toward eating meat. In his free time, Phillip enjoys cooking at home and learning new languages.

Anuva is a Raleigh, NC native and new to Chicago. She earned her Bachelors in Business Management at UNC Charlotte in 2021 and recently graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with her Masters in Public Health, specifically Applied Epidemiology. She loves traveling, all things theatre, and reading or binging movies in her free time.

"I am happy to be part of such a great team and community!"



Anuva Fellner



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### CONGRATS!

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Vice chair of research, Dr. Danielle McCarthy, has been chosen by Northwestern University for induction as a faculty member into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. The GHHS is a national honor society that honors senior medical students, residents, role-model physician educators, and other exemplars recognized for excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service. It was created by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for Humanism in Medicine.

“This is a well deserved honor for Danielle!” – James Adams, MD

Dr. Jennifer Chan was appointed as a Faculty Ambassador with the Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs (Northwestern Buffett). In this role, she will serve as both an advisor to the Institute and a representative of its ongoing global affairs initiatives. The selection of Faculty Ambassadors is a highly competitive process, and Dr. Chan's achievement is truly commendable.



Danielle M. McCarthy, MD, MS, FACEP  
Vice Chair of Research &  
Associate Professor



Jennifer Chan, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Director of Global Emergency Medicine  
Associate Professor



## RESIDENCY SPOTLIGHT

### CONGRATS!

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Drs. Megan Chenworth and Diana Halloran have been selected as the Spirit of 2010 Award recipients for the year. The Spirit of 2010 Award is an especially heartfelt gift by the NU EM Class of 2010. The members of the Class of 2010 have committed to support this yearly gift to a current resident who has a planned educational experience that requires additional funding, such as travel for an international medical mission, a new research project, etc.

Dr. Chenworth is being funded to support completion of her disaster medicine elective in Boston.

Dr. Halloran is being funded to attend the Rocky Mountain Winter Conference and as part of the "resident speaker competition" where she will present on topics related to narrative medicine and wellness.



Megan Chenworth, MD



Diana Halloran, MD





# NEWLY FUNDED GRANTS

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Co-PIs: Amy Kontrick & Danielle McCarthy

Mechanism: R01

Title: Improving Diagnostic Safety through Steatosis Identification, Risk stratification, and Referral in the ED (STIRRED)

Funder: AHRQ

This is a 4 year, 2 million dollar award. They are collaborating with others at Northwestern and UT Southwestern to improve patient notification and follow-up care for the incidental finding of hepatic steatosis.



**Amy Kontrick, MD**

Assistant Professor

**Danielle M. McCarthy,  
MD, MS, FACEP**

Vice Chair of Research &  
Associate Professor

Site PI: Lindsay Allen

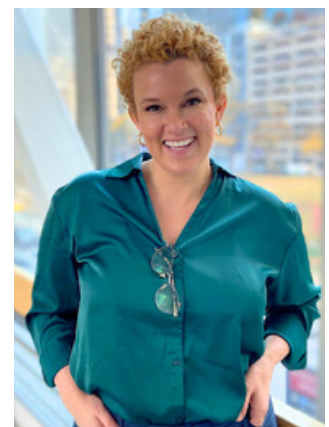
Mechanism: R01

Title: The role of telehealth in improving access to and costs of unscheduled care among lower-income individuals.

Funder: AHRQ

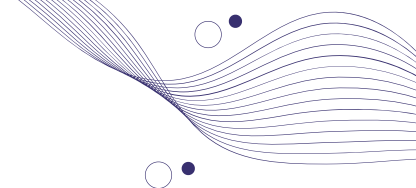
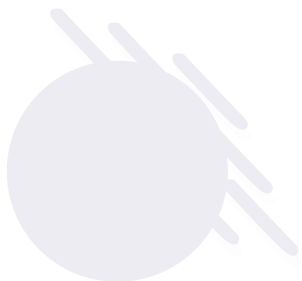
Topic:

This is a 4 year, 1.6 million dollar award led by Dr. Lindsay Allen. She will be working with investigators at Northwestern as well as teams at Oregon Health and Sciences University and Thomas Jefferson University as we investigate how different models of immediate care telehealth design influence care delivery.



**Lindsay Allen, PhD MA**

Assistant Professor



Co-PIs: **Danielle McCarthy** & Kristin Rising

Mechanism: R18

Title: Targeted EHR-based Communication of Diagnostic Uncertainty (TECU) in the ED: An Effectiveness Implementation Trial

Funder: AHRQ

This is a 2 million dollar, 4 year award and is led by co-PIs Danielle McCarthy and Kristin Rising (Thomas Jefferson University). This grant will seek to develop and test a new EHR-based strategy to increase communication about uncertainty in the ED setting and following patient outcomes post-visit.



**Danielle M. McCarthy,  
MD, MS, FACEP**

Vice Chair of Research &  
Associate Professor

Site PI: **Scott Dresden**

Mechanism: U19

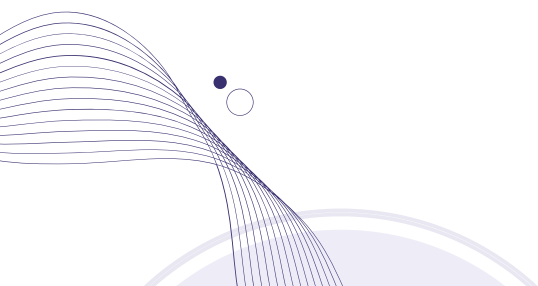
Title: ED-LEAD: EDs LEADING the Transformation of Alzheimer's and Dementia Care

Funder: National Institute of Aging

This is a 5-year 10 million dollar U19 grant funded by the National Institute of Aging and led by a multidisciplinary team of geriatric and emergency medicine investigators from NYU and the University of Wisconsin (Drs. Joshua Chodosh, Manish Shah, Corita Grudzen, and Abraham Brody). The interventions designed as part of ED-LEAD (including emergency care redesign, nurse-led telephonic care, and community paramedicine-led transitions) will be studied across 80 emergency departments nationally in 14 health systems. Dr. Scott Dresden will serve as the site-Principal Investigator for implementing and studying these interventions in the Northwestern Medicine system.



**Scott M Dresden, MD, MS**  
Director, Geriatric Emergency  
Department Innovations (GEDI)  
Associate Professor



Site PI: **Megan McHugh**

Mechanism: R18

Title: Healthy Hearts in Manufacturing: Improving Cardiovascular Care in Worksite Health Clinics

Funder: AHRQ

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S., and manufacturing workers and communities have high rates of heart disease and its risk factors (e.g., smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, and diabetes). The Healthy Hearts in Manufacturing (HHM) study will introduce evidence-based interventions for hypertension and tobacco cessation in worksite clinics that serve manufacturing workers and their families. The evaluation team will test whether HHM is associated with improved hypertension control and tobacco screening and cessation, and estimate the health care savings for the companies and Medicare. R18 grants are "research dissemination and implementation" projects and this 2 million dollar award will run from Sept 2023 through June 2028.



**Megan McHugh, PhD**  
Associate Professor

Site PI: **Scott Dresden**

Mechanism: Pilot Grants Cycle 4B

Title: Deprescribing Potentially Inappropriate Medications in the Emergency Department for Persons Living with Dementia

Funder: NIA IMPACT

This pilot study will establish the feasibility of a large-scale embedded pragmatic clinical trial to test a pharmacist-led medication reconciliation and deprescribing intervention for PLWD in the ED. Given the potential harms and related costs associated with taking CNS acting potentially inappropriate medications for PLWD, this intervention may improve medication safety and decrease ED visits, and hospitalizations.



**Scott M Dresden, MD, MS**  
Director, Geriatric Emergency  
Department Innovations (GEDI)  
Associate Professor

Site PI: **Lindsay Allen**

Mechanism: RMI

Title: Improving quality and equity of opioid use disorder treatment using a multi-state Medicaid research network

Funder: NIDA

The Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN) has supported Medicaid agency efforts to improve opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment by developing novel measures of treatment quality and examining effects of treatment quality on overdose. MODRN will now draw on robust university-state partnerships in 12 states and multistakeholder engagement to inform quality improvement initiatives and Medicaid policy through three integrated research projects aiming to: 1) develop provider-level OUD quality measures using Medicaid administrative data; 2) measure OUD patient-reported outcomes and examine associations with claims-based quality measures to guide quality and equity improvement, and 3) implement and examine the effectiveness of a practice-level quality improvement intervention for OUD.



**Lindsay Allen, PhD MA**  
Assistant Professor





# COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

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Dr. Jennifer Chan is a member and informal advisor to the Defusing Disaster Global Working group that is funded by the [Buffett Institute For Global Affairs](#). This work is led by Dr. George Chiampas and Daniel Horton and it is the first funded research of this type to our Department. This is a great example of how interdisciplinary research among FSM faculty, climate scientists, ecologists, and Chicago city practitioners. Members of the team also co-hosted a workshop with our Chicago city colleagues hosted by the National Academies of Sciences. The link below is a recap of the work to date.

[Northwestern Buffett Global Working Group launches heat-mapping collaboration with City of Chicago.](#)



Below is the link to the Defusing Disasters OpEd that was in print in the Chicago Sun-Times.

## CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

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**The Department of Emergency Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine welcomes your questions and feedback.**

[Contact Us](#)



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