

**ADAPT Equity Scholars Program 2022-23**  
**Durham VA HSR&D Center to ADAPT**

**Sample projects available for collaboration**

<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Possible collaborations for ADAPT Equity Scholars</b>
Allen, Kelli	STEP-KOA trial/implementation project	Randomized clinical trial of an osteoarthritis intervention (completed) and ongoing implementation project, with an emphasis on rural Veterans.	Secondary analyses of trial data, including subgroup analyses. Participation in ongoing STEP-KOA implementation project (multiple sites).
Blalock, Dan	ACME-TM	Cross-sectional EHR data from nationally representative sample of ~800,000 Veterans who drink moderate amounts of alcohol examining demographic and clinical differences among different combinations of alcohol use and high blood pressure.	Subgroup analyses of cross-sectional data Analyses of how race/ethnicity status influences probability of receiving VA required brief alcohol-related intervention
Blalock, Dan	Alcohol & Opioid Use	EHR data from regional sample of ~600,000 Veterans examining the association between alcohol use, brief alcohol-related intervention, and 1-year opioid outcomes (prescriptions, OUD diagnosis, and opioid-related hospitalizations).	Subgroup analyses of cross-sectional or 1-year longitudinal data Analyses of how race/ethnicity status influences probability of receiving VA required brief alcohol-related intervention
Bosworth, Hayden	V-Extra-CVD	Four site trial testing a CVD self-management program for people living with HIV	Analyses of existing baseline/longitudinal data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses) Analyses of qualitative data
Bosworth, Hayden	TEAM	16-site QI project focused on improving hypertension	Analyses of existing baseline/longitudinal data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses) Analyses of qualitative data
Boucher, Nathan	Care partner navigation for serious illness in older Veterans	Randomized control trial of a feasible care partner support intervention.	Project is heavy on community engagement where structural equity and diversity considerations need to be top of mind.
Crowley, Matt	ACDC	13-site QI projects examining glycemic effects of a comprehensive telehealth intervention for ~500 Veterans with poorly controlled diabetes	Analyses of existing baseline/longitudinal data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses) Analyses of qualitative data
Crowley, Matt	PRACTICE-DM trial	Two-site randomized trial comparing HbA1c effects of a comprehensive telehealth intervention vs. telemonitoring for 200 Veterans with persistently poor diabetes control	Analyses of existing baseline/longitudinal trial data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses) Analyses of qualitative data
Goldstein, K Gierisch, J	HEROES	Project will develop a novel implementation blueprint for virtual delivery of women-specific (e.g., postpartum depression) and sex-influenced (e.g., heart disease) preventive health care and clinical disorders for Women Veterans	Participate in qualitative evidence synthesis (QES) of primary literature (and QES protocol paper) Assist with development of a qualitative interview guide for minoritized populations

Goldstein, Karen Gierisch, Jennifer	Evidence Synthesis Program	Durham is one of 4 VA Evidence Synthesis Program centers that conducts high-quality, service-directed systematic reviews and evidence mapping projects for VA operations partners.	Participate in ongoing systematic review projects (reviews always yield a PubMed indexed report and usually a manuscript)
Goldstein, Karen Gierisch, Jennifer	Women's Enhanced Recruiting Project	Project seeks to boost the inclusion of women Veterans across VA trials through the development and dissemination of a toolkit to develop skills and knowledge for fostering women Veteran recruitment	Participate in qualitative evidence synthesis of primary qualitative literature addressing equitable inclusion of women in clinical trials (including underrepresented populations)
Hastings, Nicki	Function QUERI	8 site stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial of a hospital mobility program. EHR data are available on 19,615 patient hospitalizations, with cross-sectional survey 600+ Veterans	Analyses of predictors hospital outcomes (length of stay, nursing home discharge), social risks, multi-level subgroups, other secondary analyses
Jackson, George	Dynamic Diffusion Network QUERI Program	Randomized evaluations of a Dynamic Diffusion Network implementation strategy for spreading complex clinical programs across the VA. Separate projects are focused on enhancing moral injury and complex diabetes care	Analyzing and writing up qualitative and survey data on the process of implementing complex clinical programs across facilities Implementation science methods and frameworks
Jackson, George	SHAARK program	Large partnered evaluation of the VHA Diffusion of Excellence program. DoE is a program of the VHA Innovation Ecosystem that seeks to identify, replication, and spread promising practices across the VA	Analyzing and writing up qualitative and survey data on the process of implementing complex clinical programs across facilities Implementation science methods and frameworks
Kaufman, Brystana	Outpatient Palliative Care Implementation to Improve Outcomes for Aging Veterans	Quantitative and qualitative analyses of outpatient palliative care reach and utilization; findings will inform development of a site-level survey measuring Palliative Care Consult Teams structural characteristics and outpatient palliative care practices	Exploring disparities in use of outpatient palliative care and associated outcomes
Lewinski, Allison	TARDIS	Project examining associations between diabetes distress and related factors using quantitative and qualitative methods. Goal is to develop a novel telehealth intervention to improve self-management and outcomes in Veterans with diabetes.	Analyses of existing baseline data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses) Analyses of qualitative data (semi-structured interviews, photo elicitation interviews)
Maciejewski, Matt	SDH survey	Survey of self-reported social risks and SDH measures on 4,685 Veterans at high risk for hospitalization or death, fielded in summer 2018	Analysis of existing survey data linked to VA EHR data
Muir, Kelly	MAGIC	Randomized controlled-trial of an intervention to improve glaucoma medication adherence	Analyses of existing baseline/longitudinal trial data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses) Analyses of qualitative data
Shepherd-Banigan, Megan	GO VA FAMILIES	Feasibility study of a family-involved intervention to improve engagement in mental health therapy for PTSD	Analyses of qualitative data
Shepherd-Banigan, Megan	VA CARES/CHASE	Longitudinal survey of caregivers of Veterans to assess caregiver health, emotional, and financial wellbeing Qualitative interview of caregivers of Veterans	Analyses of existing survey data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses) Analyses of qualitative data

Sperber, Nina	Function QUERI	Project supporting next-phase implementation of three evidence-based clinical programs (STRIDE, Group PT for Knee Osteoarthritis, and Caregivers FIRST) to maximize function and independence for Veterans	Participate in mixed qualitative and quantitative analyses using implementation science theories, models, and frameworks.
Sperber, Nina	Partnered Implementation Initiative	Project supporting adoption at multiple levels (facility, provider, and patient) of preemptive pharmacogenomics testing, in which providers have access to test results at point of care, using Implementation Science frameworks.	Participate in qualitative data analysis
Steinhauser, Karen	VET-Spirit	A study to pilot the implementation of a tool screening for spiritual distress among seriously-ill veterans.	Participate in quantitative and qualitative data analysis
Ulmer, Christi	Tele-Self CBTI Trial	RCT comparing coached self-management intervention for insomnia to a health education control condition. Recruitment complete. Follow-ups complete by the fall of 2022.	Analyses of existing baseline/longitudinal trial data (subgroup analyses, other secondary analyses)
Van Houtven, Courtney	VA CARES; Function QUERI; Function and Independence Core	Partnered evaluation of the VA Caregiver Support Program (VA CARES); Implementing caregiver skills training nationally to optimize outcomes for caregivers and veterans	Development of caregiver trainings for LGBTQIA caregivers of Veterans Secondary analysis of effectiveness of caregiver training for Black caregivers for easing subjective burden, depressive symptoms
Wang, Virginia	Impact of COVID on Disparities among Veterans with Kidney Failure	This study will examine the extent and impact of disrupted and deferred care for patients receiving dialysis care in VA and non-VA settings during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Assistance with analyses of quantitative data and manuscript preparation.
Wilson, Sadie	Function QUERI ADIL	Two-year supplement to the Function QUERI, focuses on incorporating an equity lens into programs that promote Veteran function and independence. Sub-projects include analysis of inequities in discharge after acute hospitalization, implementation mapping to promote health equity.	Assisting with write-up of inequities analyses Secondary analyses of existing quantitative datasets Collaboration on implementation mapping workgroup with Veterans and operations partners
Wilson, Sadie	MESH Pilot RCT	This grant focuses on to development and testing of a personalized, multi-component mHealth/telehealth smoking cessation intervention that targets the individualized needs of Veterans living with HIV.	Secondary analyses of crowd-sourced data from Amazon Mechanical Turk (N = 200) Secondary analysis of baseline qualitative interviews from Veterans and providers
Zullig, Leah	VOTE	Evaluation of the National Teleoncology Service, which delivers cancer care to Veterans remotely	Secondary data analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to determine differences in Veterans' cancer care experiences/quality

## Biographical information (selected mentors)

Allen, Kelli, PhD – Dr. Allen is a health services researcher and exercise scientist who focuses on improving care and outcomes for individuals with osteoarthritis & other musculoskeletal conditions. Her work emphasizes pragmatic and implementation trials.

- *Equity interests:* Dr. Allen’s research focuses on understanding and mitigating disparities in chronic pain and its treatment.

Dan Blalock, PhD (he/him) – Dr. Blalock is a Clinical Research Psychologist, focusing on substance use and broader behavioral health in patients. He also has an interest in measurement and psychometrics of patient-reported outcomes, telehealth modalities for treatment, and broader mental health issues.

- *Equity interests:* Dr. Blalock has an interest in how stigma in general affects receipt of mental health and substance use services, which includes how stigma may disproportionately affect some marginalized populations’ receipt of these services.

Hayden Bosworth, PhD (he/him) – Dr. Bosworth is a health services researcher who focused on improving self-management of chronic disease and subsequently reduction healthcare disparities.

- *Equity interests:* Hayden Co-leads the Duke Building Research Inclusion and Diversity in Graduate Education (BRIDGE) program. He also a mentor 2 NIH minority supplement awards as well as a current mentor for more than 10 URM investigators.

Nathan Boucher, DrPH, PA, MS, MPA, CPHQ (he/him) – Dr. Boucher is a social scientist and gerontologist who focuses largely on care partner support in the context of serious illness for older Veterans and non-Veterans. He is Duke faculty with research and teaching responsibilities in health policy.

- *Equity Interests:* Currently funded projects engage with direct care workers and diverse care partner populations where gender and cultural background are key factors in the recognition and support of people in those roles.

Matt Crowley, MD (he/him) – Dr. Crowley is an Endocrinologist who focuses on the care of diabetes and providing gender-affirming hormone therapy for transgender patients. He is also a Health Services Researcher with interests in diabetes and telehealth.

- *Equity Interests:* Dr. Crowley serves as co-lead of the ADAPT Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Core, a member of the Duke Department of Medicine Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism committee, and a member of the Durham VA Transgender Care Team.

David Edelman (he/him) – Dr. Edelman is an interventional health services researcher and primary care provider focusing on group interventions for chronic illness care. He leads the ADAPT core for Mentoring and Career Development and holds several positions and training grants at Duke and the Durham VA surrounding the career development of junior research scientists.

- *Equity Interests:* Dr. Edelman is core faculty on a number of training programs designed to improve research opportunities for people from groups that are historically underrepresented in research; these programs range from the high school to the junior faculty level.

Jennifer M Gierisch, PhD, MPH (she/her) – Dr. Gierisch is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at Duke University, a Research Health Science Specialist at the Durham Veteran Affairs Center of Innovation in Health Services Research in Primary Care, and a Core Investigator for both the Durham VA Evidence Synthesis Program and the Duke Evidence Synthesis Group. Dr. Gierisch is a behavioral scientist and health services researcher. She received her training in health behavior with a special emphasis on applied behavioral research. Her research spans these areas: health behavior maintenance, women’s health, intervention science, evidence synthesis, and chronic disease prevention and control. Specifically, her research focuses on psychosocial factors that impact maintenance of preventive health behaviors among populations at elevated risk.

Karen M. Goldstein MD MSPH – Dr. Goldstein is a designated women’s health provider in the Durham VA HCS and an Associate Professor in the Duke University Division of general internal medicine. She co-directs the Durham VA Evidence Synthesis Program and the Durham VA Quality Scholars program. She

is also the site co-lead for the VA Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network. Her research interests include women's primary care, women's cardiovascular risk reduction, evidence synthesis, and how virtual care is integrated into primary care.

Brystana Kaufman, PhD – Dr. Kaufman is a health services researcher focused on improving the value of care for older adults. Her research is driven by a passion for whole-person models of care that integrate traditional clinical services with behavioral health, socioeconomic and social supports to address older adults' diverse needs and reflect their preferences for care. Her research evaluates patient outcomes, resource use, and cost-effectiveness of value-based payment models and novel care strategies that impact seriously ill adults and their care partners.

Allison Lewinski, PhD – Dr. Lewinski is the co-director of the Improving Access through Virtual Care Focused Area of Research and a Core Investigator with the Qualitative Core. She is also a member of the national VA HSR&D Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative and the Rapid Qualitative Analysis Sub-Group. Her interest is in promoting health equity by identifying individuals at high risk for adverse health outcomes due to social and environmental factors and then creating tailored population-level interventions to improve health outcomes. Her research focuses on research methods, implementation science, virtual care (e.g., apps, telehealth), and chronic illness self-management and is at the intersection of precision medicine and population health. She continually seeks out opportunities to enhance my qualitative and mixed methods expertise at the intersection of implementation science, chronic illness, virtual care, and health services research.

- *Equity interests:* Intersection of health equity and virtual care; equitable lenses for implementation science and research methods

George L. Jackson, PhD., MHA (he/him) – Dr. Jackson is a healthcare epidemiologist and implementation scientist who focuses on the development, testing, implementation, and evaluation of team-based care aimed at the prevention and treatment of chronic illness. He also develops and examines the impact of strategies to encourages the deification, replication, and spread of promising clinical and administrative practices across health system. Dr. Jackson leads the ADAPT Implementation and Improvement Lab/Core and is a Professor in the Duke Departments of Population Health Sciences, Medicine (Division of General Internal Medicine), and Family Medicine & Community Health. He also teaches in the Duke Physician Assistant Program.

- *Equity Interests:* Dr. Jackson serves on the Duke Department of Population Health Sciences (DPHS) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee. He has worked on enhancing the system for faculty recruitment in DPHS, with the goal of increasing the diversity of applicants and faculty members. As part of his work in both healthcare epidemiology and implementation science, he seeks to enhance the evaluation and implementation of initiatives aimed and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion of services within healthcare systems.

Matt Maciejewski, PhD (he/him) – Dr. Maciejewski is a health economist and health services researcher who uses quasi-experimental studies to evaluate long-term clinical and economic outcomes of policies and programs to improve care of patients with obesity and/or cardiometabolic conditions.

- *Equity Interests:* Dr. Maciejewski served as a member of the Duke Department of Population Health Sciences Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism committee, and guest lectures at NC Central University every fall.

Kelly Muir, MD (she/her) – Dr. Muir is an ophthalmologist specializing the care of people with glaucoma.

- *Equity Interests:* Dr. Muir is a member of the Duke Eye Center Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. She is involved in multiple efforts, locally and at the national level, to increase the representation of URM physicians in ophthalmology.

Nina Sperber, PhD (she/her)– Dr. Sperber is a health services researcher who focuses on using mixed qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate and improve delivery of innovations in diverse health care settings. She frequently uses implementation science models, theories and frameworks.

Karen Steinhauser, PhD – Dr. Steinhauser is a health scientist who focuses on quality of life for persons living with advanced serious illness and palliative care.

- *Equity interests (optional):* Dr. Steinhauser is the Director of the ADAPT Center Qualitative Data Core which uses qualitative methodologies to center the voices of veterans and their caregivers, with attention to inclusion of marginalized communities or participants. In other work, she is part of a trial

to develop a new Implicit Bias training program for providers and compare the effectiveness of two advanced care planning programs among white and African American/Black older adults.

Virginia Wang, PhD MSPH (she/her) – Dr. Wang is a Health Services Researcher who examines organizational influences and health policy on the provision of health services, provider strategy and performance, care coordination, and outcomes for patients with complex chronic disease.

- *Equity Interests:* Dr. Wang conducts VA and non-VA funded studies that examine policy impacts of health services and outcomes to further assess differential impacts on disparities and patient subpopulations, including rural and minority patients to inform targeted intervention for reducing disparities.

Sadie Wilson, PhD (she/her) – Dr. Wilson is a Clinical Psychologist who focuses on treatment development and implementation of interventions that address health inequities. Her clinical work focuses on mental health and access to care for LGBTQ+ Veterans. Her research focuses on behavioral treatments and access to care for individuals with minoritized identities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, racially and ethnically minoritized individuals, and individuals with low income.

- *Equity interests:* Dr. Wilson served as the Durham VA Health Care System LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator from 2019-2022, and is a member of the Durham VA Transgender Care Team. She serves as the co-lead of the ADAPT Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Core, and as the co-director of the Duke Sexual and Gender Minority Health Program. She is also a Co-Investigator in the Duke Center for REACH Equity.