THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH conducts, publishes, and disseminates high-quality epidemiologic and health services research to improve the health and medical care of Kaiser Permanente members and the society at large. It seeks to understand the determinants of illness and well-being and to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care. To accomplish these goals, the Division of Research is committed to providing a supportive research environment that fosters independent thinking, creativity, continued learning, and adherence to the highest scientific standards.
CONTENTS

05 LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR Joe V. Selby MD MPH
06 ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL OVERVIEW Barry Miller PhD

RESEARCH
09 Healthcare Effectiveness Joe V. Selby MD MPH
10 Etiology and Prevention Lawrence H. Kushi, ScD
13 Clinical Research Stephen Sidney, MD MPH

14 NEW FACES
16 RESEARCH SCIENTISTS A-Z
24 ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS A-Z
26 COMMITTEES AND AWARDS
30 RESEARCH STUDIES
56 PUBLICATIONS

71 Words from the Founder of the Division of Research

ON THE COVER: A tripod outside of DFCI's 2000 Broadway location, in Oakland, California. Construction was completed in February of 2002.
ENRICHING COLLABORATIONS

I AM DELIGHTED to present the 2003-2004 Research Activities Report of Kaiser Permanente Northern California's Division of Research (DOR). My primary aim is to familiarize you with the DOR, its 40 research scientists, their achievements, and the more than 250 projects they currently have underway.

The DOR conducts research among the 3.5 million Kaiser Permanente members of Northern California using interviews, automated data, medical records, and clinical examinations. DOR researchers have contributed over 100 papers to the medical and public health literature. Projects include epidemiologic and health services studies as well as clinical trials and program evaluations. They cover a wide range of topics including cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, substance abuse, mental health, maternal and child health, women's health, pharmacoeconomics, and studies of the impact of changing health care policy and practice.

A unique feature of many DOR studies are their large size and high level of accuracy and detail that are the result of Kaiser Permanente's rich clinical databases and the high rates of retention by Kaiser Permanente members. Population-based studies in which achievement in Kaiser Permanente simply can't be done elsewhere. In all of this work, researchers are guided by Kaiser Permanente's Institutional Review Board, which reviews and approves each project before its initiation, ensures that risks to study subjects, risks to privacy as well as safety, are minimized and that the potential benefits of each study outweigh any possible risks.

DOR researchers often collaborate with clinicians and operations staff, or members of The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG) and/or the larger Kaiser Permanente community. The opportunities to collaborate with Kaiser Permanente's health care delivery system is another remarkable feature of research at DOR. These collaborations serve to enrich DOR's research portfolio, to improve The Permanente Medical Group's clinical practice, and to refine the organization's policies and operations. A growing number of our studies feature collaboration with researchers from other regions of Kaiser Permanente. Most of these inter-regional projects are funded by external agencies, including the NIH, the CDC, and AHRQ.

However, Kaiser Permanente, through the Garfield Memorial Fund and the Direct Community Benefit Programs, plays an increasingly important role in sponsoring research activities that address questions of importance to both the organization and the community. The intent to publish results in the scientific literature remains constant in all of this work.

During the two years since our last report, DOR has experienced several significant departures. In 2003, Donna O'Connor concluded her 18-year tenure as DOR's Administrative Director. Donna led the Division with a uniquely personal and competent style through a period of remarkable growth which saw the DOR expand from less than 100 to nearly 400 staff. We miss her. In addition to Donna's departure, one of our senior research scientists, Dr. Bruce Ettinger, retired from TPMG transitioning from a DOR Research Scientist to DOR Adjunct Research Scientist. We acknowledge the steady support of our organizational sponsors within The Permanente Medical Group and of our friends and collaborators elsewhere within the Kaiser Permanente family.

We also thank our collaborators from government, academia, and industry for sharing their insights, for their hard work, and for the pleasure of their company during the past year.
Administration and Fiscal Overview

The Administration Department at the Division of Research (DOR) includes grants and contracts, fiscal operations, human resources, facility operations, public affairs, research compliance (IRB) and research operations. The Grants and Contracts Division maintains a team of experienced, customer-focused Research Administrators providing all pre-award services. The Finance Department provides all the necessary services to Principal Investigators and project staff in regard to post-award administration of grants. Administration also employs a full-time IRB liaison who serves as a consultant to Investigators and staff on all aspects of IRB transactions, as well as employing, a Public Affairs/Media Relations liaison who is responsible for facilitating communications between the DOR research staff and regional and national public affairs staff in order to assist in media training for scientists and to ensure that DOR publicizes research that is of interest and of value to the public at large.

Lastly, research operations support includes a Data Entry Department, a Medical Records Analysis Department, an Information Technology Department, a Library, as well as a Strategic Programming Unit. The Data Entry Department consults on the design of research questionnaires and data collection forms for DOR investigators, as well as for investigators throughout the Northern California region. The Information Technology Department maintains the over 700 computers and servers supporting the research needs of the DOR investigators. The Library maintains extensive access to hundreds of journals, as well as, performing database and internet searches. The Strategic Programming Unit develops new data sources and linkage strategies that cut across the needs of the division.

In Fiscal Year 2004 there were over 200 funded studies with extramural support totaling $34,201,107, an increase of 13% from Fiscal Year 2003. The pie chart above illustrates the distribution of all funding at the Division of Research during calendar year 2004. It can be noted that in 1994, the Division's portfolio stood at 9.4 million dollars. During the next 10 years, DOR's portfolio grew by more than 400%. During the past five years the extramural portfolio has almost doubled. This increase is attributable to both growth in the number of and career maturation among DOR's research scientists. Approximately 23% of current projects represent multi-center studies in which data are collected within Kaiser Permanente and merged with those from at least one other clinical site, and in which DOR investigators collaborate with researchers based elsewhere. In addition, DOR maintains collaborations with numerous academic institutions across the country and internationally.
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OVERVIEW

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HEALTHCARE EFFECTIVENESS

HEALTHCARE Effectiveness (HCE) research aims to understand the impact of clinical care and health care policy on patients' health status, clinical outcomes, and the costs of care. It aims to identify cost-effective health care practices and policies and to enhance the health status of Kaiser Permanente® members. Kaiser Permanente Northern California is a remarkable setting for such studies because of the large member population, the high quality clinical databases, the organization of care into medical centers, and the organization of The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG) into more than 50 Chiefs Groups, each with a specific clinical expertise and interest. DOR researchers currently study a wide variety of chronic and acute conditions, including AIDS/HIV and other infectious diseases, cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, chemical dependency, use of complementary and alternative health practices, gastroenterology disorders, maternal and child health, mental health, and inpatient intensive care, both neonatal and adult. Health services studies, including studies of the costs of illnesses, of patient preferences, patient safety, and of the impact of technological medical record, patient cost-sharing, and physician education, are other important components of the Health Care Effectiveness portfolio.

Much of this work is conducted in collaboration with one or more of the physician Chiefs' Groups within TPMG or with other regional and program-level departments, including Regional Quality and Operations Support (QOS), Regional Health Education, TPMG Physician Education, Northern California's Chronic Conditions Management Program, Regional Diabetes and Breast Cancer Task Forces, the Committee for HIV/AIDS Interregional Responsibilities, and the national Care Management Institute. This opportunity to collaborate with these operational groups enriches DOR's research immensely and helps to ensure that important findings are disseminated quickly.

Several recent first-authored publications exemplify the work of the HCE section. These include a New England Journal of Medicine paper demonstrating the important and independent influence of early, mild renal impairment on risk of death, cardiovascular events, and hospitalization. Two papers in Medical Care, the first describing patient awareness of changes in cost-sharing and the impact of this knowledge on use of the emergency department, and the second paper which examines the clinical and cost benefits of integrating substance abuse treatment with primary care. DOR investigators also contributed editorials in the gastroenterology journals on aspects of colorectal cancer screening. Last, a paper in the Journal of the American Medical Association established that within Kaiser Permanente, use of anticoagulation therapy for stroke prevention in patients with atrial fibrillation conveys essentially the same benefits as shown in randomized trials, with very low complication rates.
Etiology and prevention research aims to understand the environmental, behavioral, and genetic causes of a broad range of diseases. The Division of Research is actively engaged in studies of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, neurological disorders, perinatal and childhood illnesses, maternal health, and psychiatric illness, and in broader studies of many common exposures (e.g., tobacco smoke, alcohol, diet, physical activity, prescription drugs). The sizable population that represents the Kaiser Permanente Northern California membership provides an outstanding setting for conducting this work. With over 3 million health plan members representing about 30 percent of the total population in the counties served by Kaiser Permanente Northern California, approximately one percent of all health events in the United States occur among this membership. The extensive clinical and administrative databases enable or facilitate investigations that would be extremely difficult to achieve or would not otherwise be possible. Ongoing infrastructure collaborations through the HMO Research Network and the Cancer Research Network, as well as research groups at a number of integrated health care delivery systems, enhance the ability to conduct such research in other populations.

In the past two years, etiology and prevention researchers have continued work in a number of areas. Just one example is a growing complement of studies in breast cancer prognosis. DOR is the clinical site for two randomized trials investigating the effects of dietary interventions on breast cancer survivorship, and also has two or only a handful of prospective studies investigating lifestyle factors on long-term breast cancer prognosis. Recently, one of DOR's investigators presented one of the first studies to indicate suggested that the expression of a panel of genes is strongly associated with 10-year survival among women with breast cancer. Etiology and Prevention Researchers continue to publish studies in varied areas with important clinical or public health implications. For example, recent publications include a study demonstrating that low position is a major risk factor for sudden infant death syndrome (infants who die from SIDS are more likely to have last slept in a prone, or face-down, position). Other example's include a study that demonstrated that increases in weight in women during mid-life may be prevented or minimized with physical activity, and another that demonstrated that failure to breastfeed until six months indicates a higher risk of breast cancer. An area of growing research interest is the role of genetic factors in the etiology and prognosis of disease.

In recognition of the growing need for large population studies to investigate the roles of genetic and environmental factors in disease causation and management, Etiology and Prevention Researchers have been working toward infrastructure funding for

The extensive clinical and administrative databases enable or facilitate investigations that would be extremely difficult to achieve or would not otherwise be possible.
THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH (DOR) Clinical Research Center is distinguished by its multi-functional capabilities designed to provide an efficient and pleasant setting for participants and staff. Clinical disciplines and departments come together at DOR in an environment that fosters a collaborative approach for improving the lives of its members through the conduct of observational studies and clinical trials. Experienced oversight of clinical operations is provided by the Center’s manager, Norma Bonghi, R.N.

With an annual clinical research budget of nearly $8 million dollars and twelve operational studies, research findings may have far-reaching implications for people of all ages in areas such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, to name a few.

DOR’s Clinical Research Facilities offer the following:

- Accreditation to administer procedural sedation for gastrointestinal procedures. Overseen by the California Department of Health Services, the Joint Commission of Accreditation for Health Care Organizations (JACHC), Kaiser Oakland Medical Center Department of Quality and the Department of Accreditation, Regulation and Licensing.
- Over 24,000 square feet on two floors available for clinical research.
- Dedicated rooms for bone densitometry, electrocardiograms, expanded monitoring and medical procedures, pre/post recovery room and secured areas for patient charts and study drugs – one negative pressure room for high disinfection.
- A newly acquired DEXA - Hologic 4500 unit for studies of osteoporosis in women. This model can acquire scans and perform analysis on AP Lumbar Spine, Left/Right Hip, Dual Hip Scan, Body Analysis (Spine/Hip), Left/Right Forearm, Whole Body and AP/Lateral Imaging.
- Three laboratories, each equipped with refrigerated centrifuges, one –70°C countertop freezer and four small refrigerators for interim storage of specimens.
- Non-ventilated still air hood – providing enhanced product protection. Fume hood – ensures occupational and environmental health and safety standards and regulations with chemical usage.
- Installed eyewash stations.
- Six low temperature freezers, five –20°C freezers and one refrigerator for long term storage of biological specimens.
- Twelve interview rooms, eight examination rooms, participant changing rooms with installed showers.
- Nearly 50 certified staff members implement clinical study protocols.
- Laboratory Improvement Amendment “point of care” testing site.

During the past two years, the Clinical Research Center has been the home of studies focusing on many aspects of health and disease such as women’s health (heart disease, osteoporosis, and breast cancer), genetic determinants of coronary heart disease, breast and prostate cancer prevention, and the use of complementary and alternative medicine. In 2003, the CARDIA (Cardiovascular Risk Development in Young Adults) study will conduct its 20-year follow-up exam to track the evolution of cardiovascular risk factors and development of subclinical cardiovascular disease, and studies will be initiated to answer questions about the relationships of physical fitness to cardiovascular disease risk and of chronic lung disease to disability.

During the next several years, DOR will aim to sustain its strength in conducting observational studies and clinical trials and to examine the potential for additional long-term studies in areas of DOR’s experience that enhance the stability of clinical operations.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Improving the lives of members through the conduct of observational studies and clinical trials.

STEPHEN SYMON, M.D., M.P.H. has worked at DOR since 1982. In 1993, he became the Associate Director for Clinical Research.
NEW FACES

Elinee M. Brown, J.D., MPH
Elinee Brown, J.D., joined the Division of Research (DOR) as its first Director of Community Collaboration. In addition to a number of years practicing corporate law, Ms. Brown's background includes founding and directing a community-based public policy organization focused on substance abuse in youth and three years as a program officer with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is currently completing her DrPH at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health, in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente's Community Relations Department. Ms. Brown will work to strengthen DOR ties to the communities served by Kaiser Permanente and help to further develop the Health Disparities agenda within DOR.

Joan C. Lo, MD
Dr. Joan Lo, endocrinologist, joined DOR as a Scholar with the joint University of California, San Francisco-DOR Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) Program. Dr. Lo was previously Assistant Professor at the School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. Her research interests include insulin resistance, polycystic ovary syndrome, syndromes of altered fat distribution and bone metabolism in HIV infection, and endocrine disorders associated with renal disease.

Michael J. Silverberg, MPH, PhD
Prior to joining DOR as a Research Scientist, Dr. Michael Silverberg, epidemiologist, was an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Silverberg's research interests focus on the natural and treated history of HIV infection, co-infection with HIV and human papillomavirus (HPV) and other sexually transmitted infections, and mother-to-infant transmission of infections, including HPV and HIV.
ADJUNCT SCIENTISTS

The individuals below are Division of Research (DOR) Adjunct Research Scientists. In this capacity, they work closely with DOR scientists to conduct their research.

Daniel B. Deleted is a DOR Director Emeritus and currently retired from medical practice. Dr. Deleted maintains an active role as a consultant to both DOR and Kaiser Permanente.

Mary A. Deleted is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, and holds an additional faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Deleted's primary research interests are in pediatric obesity, diabetes, and the prevention of chronic disease.

John M. Deleted is a Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Deleted's research interests include cardiology, infectious diseases, and molecular biology.

Lisa A. Deleted is a DOR Associate Professor in the Division of Research and Policy. Dr. Deleted's research interests include epidemiology, health services research, health policy, and health services research.

Methodology, health services research, health policy, and health services research.

Health services research, health policy, and health services research.

Health services research, health policy, and health services research.

Health services research, health policy, and health services research.

Health services research, health policy, and health services research.
Mark Alexander is an active Member of the Kaiser Permanente African American Professional Association.

Mary Anne Armstrong was an invited speaker at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Translational Research Conference on Fetal Alcohol Syndromes. She is also a Member of the Kaiser Permanente Clinical Research Committee, the Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) Perinatal Substance Abuse Task Force, the KPNC Listening to Mothers Service Enrichment Strategy Meeting Planning Committee, the Division of Research (DOR) Career Development Committee, the DOR Programmatic/Annual Promotion Committee, Chair of the DOR Local Research Committee, and a co-chair of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Truly Black is a Member of the Kaiser Permanente Research Compliance Oversight Committee and the Chair of the KPNC Clinical Trials Committee. Berta J. Czaja was an invited speaker at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Survivor Workshop and presented "Methodological Issues of Studies of Breast Cancer Survivors." She is also a Member of the Women's Health Initiative Steering Committee, Performance Monitoring Committee, and the Breast Health Initiative Steering Committee. Dr. Czaja is also a Member of both the DOR Data Safety and Monitoring Board and the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Douglas A. Corley is a Member of the American Gastroenterological Association's Esophageal Research section and the Esophageal section. He is also an Ad-Hoc Member of NIH study sections and a Member of the DOR Career Development Committee. Dr. Corley participates in the CTEMR Network (Multi-National Neuroendocrine and Metastatic Cancer Registry) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Survivor Workshop and presented "Methodological Issues of Studies of Breast Cancer Survivors." She is also a Member of the Women's Health Initiative Steering Committee, Performance Monitoring Committee, and the Breast Health Initiative Steering Committee. Dr. Czaja is also a Member of both the DOR Data Safety and Monitoring Board and the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Andrew N. Arns is a Member of the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) Scientific Council, the Co-Director of the NCCAM, a Member of the Scientific Council, University of California, San Francisco, and the Chair of the Women's Health Initiative Steering Committee. Dr. Arns is a past member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Gerald N. Delnore is a Member of both the DOR Local Research Committee and the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Gabriel J. Escobar is a Member of the Perinatal Medicine Group's NCEM Committee, the Perinatal Medicine Group's NCEM Committee, and a Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Antonella Ferrara is a Member of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Council for Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the ADA Council for Diabetes in Pregnancy. She is also a Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Bruce Fireman is a Member of both the DOR Local Research Committee and the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Liza A. Green is a Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Alan S. Gis is a Member of the DOR Local Research Committee.

Theodore H. Gis is a Member of both the DOR Local Research Committee and the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Anne S. Hargrave is a Member of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, and the American Association for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research. She is also a Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Joseph P. Gordon is a Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

She also received the 2002 Astrid G. Gerstein Award for Excellence in Research on Ethnic Minorities and Public Health from the National Association of Hispanic Medical Professionals. She is also a Member of the American College of Physicians, the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Laurel A. Haber is an Ad-Hoc Scientific Reviewer for NIH study sections. She is also a Member of the DOR Investigator and Biostatistician Career Development Committee and the DOR Investigator and Biostatistician Career Development Committee. She is also a Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.
Lisa J. Herting is an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Epidemiology and a Member of the NCI Cancer Research Network, Publications Committee.

John K. Hsu is a Member of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Health Care Technology and December Sciences Scientific Review Committee. He is also part of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Technology and Evaluation Workgroup, and the National Health Assessment Clinical Workgroup. In 2003, he received the best abstract honor from the Bay Area Clinical Research Symposium. In 2003 and 2004, Dr. Hsu received an outstanding abstract designation at both the 2003 and 2004 Academy Health Annual Meeting.

Eriminal M. Malveaux is an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Epidemiology and a Member of the NCI Cancer Research Network, Publications Committee.

Carlo Bizizarreri is a Member of the National Health, Long-Term Care, and Health and Disability Services Scientific Review Committee. He is also part of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Technology and Evaluation Workgroup, and the National Health Assessment Clinical Workgroup. In 2003, he received the best abstract honor from the Bay Area Clinical Research Symposium. In 2003 and 2004, Dr. Hsu received an outstanding abstract designation at both the 2003 and 2004 Academy Health Annual Meeting.

Andrew J. Kattner is a Member of the National Health, Long-Term Care, and Health and Disability Services Scientific Review Committee. He is also part of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Technology and Evaluation Workgroup, and the National Health Assessment Clinical Workgroup. In 2003, he received the best abstract honor from the Bay Area Clinical Research Symposium. In 2003 and 2004, Dr. Hsu received an outstanding abstract designation at both the 2003 and 2004 Academy Health Annual Meeting.

Theodore R. Levin is a Member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, a Member of the National Cancer Institute, and a Member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and a Member of the National Cancer Institute. He is also part of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Technology and Evaluation Workgroup, and the National Health Assessment Clinical Workgroup. In 2003, he received the best abstract honor from the Bay Area Clinical Research Symposium. In 2003 and 2004, Dr. Hsu received an outstanding abstract designation at both the 2003 and 2004 Academy Health Annual Meeting.

Deborah J. Li is an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Epidemiology and a Member of the National Cancer Institute, and a Member of the National Cancer Institute. She is also part of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Technology and Evaluation Workgroup, and the National Health Assessment Clinical Workgroup. In 2003, she received the best abstract honor from the Bay Area Clinical Research Symposium. In 2003 and 2004, Dr. Hsu received an outstanding abstract designation at both the 2003 and 2004 Academy Health Annual Meeting.

Joan C. Lin is a Scholar for the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCH) Program jointly led by the University of California, San Francisco, CA, and the Division of Research.

Charles P. Quanstrom is the Chair of the NCI Cancer Research Network, Publications Committee.

Catherine Schaefer heads the DOR's efforts to establish a Center for Genetic Epidemiology Research at the National Institutes of Health. She is also a Chair of the NCI Cancer Research Network, Publications Committee.

Joel V. Sacks is a Member of the NCI Cancer Research Network, Publications Committee.

She is also a Member of the KPCN Breast Cancer Task Force and the Clinical Trials Advisory Board.

Barbara Shenfeld is the Chair of the KPCN Cancer Research Network, Publications Committee.

Sara G. Shanklin is a Member of the National Cancer Institute, and a Member of the National Cancer Institute. She is also part of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Technology and Evaluation Workgroup, and the National Health Assessment Clinical Workgroup. In 2003, she received the best abstract honor from the Bay Area Clinical Research Symposium. In 2003 and 2004, Dr. Hsu received an outstanding abstract designation at both the 2003 and 2004 Academy Health Annual Meeting.

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Research Studies were ongoing during the 2003 and 2004 calendar years. Many of the projects fall into one or more of the broad categories listed below, but are only listed once in the category that best fits the study objectives. Please note that: 1) If an investigator is listed as “Site Principal Investigator” (SPI), the study is a subcontract to the Division of Research, and the SPI is the Principal Investigator (PI) for the Kaiser Permanente (KP) site only, whereas if the notation is Principal Investigator, the investigator is the PI for the total project and 2) funding lists the primary source of funding, whether or not the funding is a subcontract to the Division of Research.

### AIDS/HIV

**Effect of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI) on Adherence to Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy (HAART) in HIV+ Patients**

**Principal Investigator:** Michael Horberg, MD

**Funding:** Kaiser Permanente Garfield Memorial Fund

This randomized trial will investigate the different rates and levels of adherence to medication regimes when they are on HAART only, HAART and when SSRI is added, or when SSRI was present before HAART.

**Epidemiology & Clinical Outcome of HIV/HCV Co-Infection**

**Site Principal Investigator:** Michael Horberg, MD

**Funding:** National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

This is a Kaiser Permanente program wide analysis of an HIV/HCV+ cohort, including testing rates in the organization will be compared to the VHA program wide cohort and treatment rates of HIV+HCV+ patients.

**Fat Redistribution and Metabolic Change in HIV Infection**

**Site Principal Investigator:** Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH

**Funding:** National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

The FRAM study is a multi-center clinical study examining HIV-infected subjects and non-infected subjects to determine the prevalence of a peripheral lipodystrophy syndrome including peripheral fat redistribution, insulin resistance, and pre-atrophogenic hypertension.

**Patient Characteristics, Medical Errors and Adverse Events, and Best Practices: An Examination of the Kaiser Permanente Northern California, HIV-Infected Patient Population**

**Principal Investigator:** Gerald N. Dallman, PhD

**Funding:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This Task Order investigates the occurrence of preventable medical...
Methanotlated Cigarette and Risk of Acute Myocardial Infarction, Coronary Heart Disease, and Stroke

Principal Investigator: Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH
Funding: The Coca-Cola Company Research Program

This retrospective cohort study examines whether methane-laden cigarette smokers have a higher risk than smokers of non-methanotlated cigarettes for myocardial infarction, coronary heart disease, and stroke.

Osteoporosis and Coot of Day Hospital Veneur Outpatient Care

Principal Investigator: Constance M. Weaver, DPhD
Funding: National Institute on Aging

This study examines the relationship between osteoporosis and the use of Coots of Day Hospitals.

Pathways to Substance Abuse Treatment in Adolescents

Principal Investigator: Stacy Stirling, MSW, MPH
Funding: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

This study investigates the pathways to substance abuse treatment in adolescents.

Policy Implications of Different Treatment Approaches for Individuals with Concurrent Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders

Principal Investigator: Stacy Stirling, MSW, MPH
Funding: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

This study evaluates the effectiveness of different treatment approaches for individuals with concurrent substance abuse and mental health disorders.

Sensitivities to Alcohol and Drug Problems in South African Primary Care Clinics

Principal Investigator: Constance M. Weaver, DPhD
Funding: National Institute on Drug Abuse

This study examines the sensitivities to alcohol and drug problems in South African primary care clinics.

Induced Abortion and Breast Cancer Risk

Principal Investigator: De-Kun Li, MD, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the association between induced abortion and breast cancer risk.

Long-Term Health Outcomes in Breast Cancer Survivors

Principal Investigator: Dari J. Casner, DPhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the long-term health outcomes of breast cancer survivors.

Mammographic Density in a Multicenter Cohort

Principal Investigator: Laura A. Habel, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the mammographic density in a multicenter cohort.

Rakewo Use Among Women With a History of Breast Cancer

Principal Investigator: Laura A. Habel, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the use of Rakewo among women with a history of breast cancer.

(continued on next page)
Cancers OTHER

A Nested Case-Control Study of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, Serum Levels of Organochlorines and Epstein-Barr Virus Serology
Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Hennigton, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study seeks to assess the association between exposure to organochlorines and Epstein-Barr virus serology, with a focus on non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Association of PPAR Gamma Ligands and Colonic Neoplasia
Principal Investigator: Lavelle A. Habib, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study examines the association between PPAR gamma ligands and the development of colonic neoplasia.

Research Network Across Health Care Systems (CRN/A – Infrastructure)
Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Hennigton, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This network aims to enhance the infrastructure for research across health care systems.

Patient Experience and Specific Treatment Strategies
Principal Investigator: Lawrence H. Sloan, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study investigates patient experiences and the strategies used for specific treatments in cancer care.

Intrinsic Resistance and Armament of the Colon Cancer (IRAC)
Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study explores the mechanisms of intrinsic resistance in colon cancer.

Molecular Epidemiology of Fatal Prostate Cancer
Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Den Breek, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study investigates the molecular epidemiology of fatal prostate cancer.

Acute Coronary Syndromes One-Year Total Costs and Clinical Outcomes in the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program, Northern California Region
Principal Investigator: Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH
Funding: El Lilly and Company
This study analyzes the costs and outcomes of acute coronary syndromes in a large patient population.

A Nested Case-Control Study of Lipoprotein-associated Phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) and Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease Among Young Adults
Principal Investigator: Carlos Inbar, MD, MC, MD
Funding: GlaxoSmithKline Company
This study examines the association of Lp-PLA2 with subclinical cardiovascular disease among young adults.
Clinical and Genetic Predictors of Myocardial Infarction in Coronary Disease

Site Principal Investigator: Alan S. Go, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the association of genetic risk factors with risk of coronary artery disease in the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) study.

Epidemiology and Outcomes of Atrial Fibrillation (The Assessment of Risk and Prevention of Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation, ATRIA study)

Site Principal Investigator: Alan S. Go, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the association of genetic and lifestyle risk factors with risk of atrial fibrillation in the ATRIA study.

A Prospective Study of Risk Factors for Heart Failure in a Large Population

Site Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kottke, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the association of genetic and lifestyle risk factors with risk of heart failure in a large population.

A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of a Novel Antiplatelet Drug in the Prevention of Atrial Fibrillation

Site Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kottke, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the association of novel antiplatelet drug with risk of atrial fibrillation in a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

Does a Randomized, Controlled Trial Predict the Subsequent Risk of Coronary or Myocardial Infarction?

Site Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kottke, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the association of random assignment to placebo or active treatment with risk of coronary or myocardial infarction in a controlled trial.

Identification of Novel Risk Factors for Heart Failure

Site Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kottke, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the identification of novel risk factors for heart failure in a patient cohort.

California Near Fatal Asthma Surveillance Project

Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Den Eeden, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the association of near-fatal asthma events with risk factors in a surveillance study.

Characterization of Asthma Drug Exposures and Development of an Algorithm for Identification of Patients With Churg-Strauss Syndrome

Site Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kottke, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This study examines the association of asthma drug exposures with risk of Churg-Strauss syndrome in a patient cohort.
Efficacy of Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain
Site Principal Investigator: Andrew L. Arns, MD, MPH
Funding: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
This randomized controlled trial is examining the use of acupuncture needles for the treatment of chronic low back pain.

Efficacy of Saw Palmetto Extract for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
Principal Investigator: Andrew L. Arns, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This single-center randomized clinical trial examines the effects of various doses of the saw palmetto berry on the symptoms and objective flow parameters of patients with benign prostatic hyperplasia.

Massage Therapy for Cancer-Related Fatigue
Site Principal Investigator: Andrew L. Arns, MD, MPH
Funding: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
This randomized pilot trial is studying the use of a massage therapy intervention for the treatment of fatigue in patients with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, with a focus on the development of valid methodology for studying the efficacy of massage therapy for highly subjective outcomes.

Phytotherapy for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
Site Principal Investigator: Andrew L. Arns, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This national, multi-center randomized clinical trial examines whether extracts of the saw palmetto and pygeum africanum plants are an option for long-term treatment of patients with benign prostatic hyperplasia.

DIABETES
Cohort Study of Pigmentary and Bladder Cancer in Patients With Diabetic Nephropathy
Site Principal Investigator: Assanisi Ferra, MD, PhD
Funding: Takora Pharmaceuticals North America
This study describes a cohort study.

De Free Glucose Test Strips Increase Self-Monitoring?
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Karter, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study quantifies the impact of providing free self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) strips to diabetic patients in terms of: 1) individual-level utilization and glycemic control, with special attention to disparities across gender, socioeconomic status, and disease severity; 2) population-level impact in terms of changes in glycemic control attributable to changes in adherence to recommended SMBG practice; and 3) the cost-effectiveness of providing free SMBG strips.

Educational Disparities in Diabetes Complications
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Karter, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study explored the link between education, as well as other socioeconomic indicators, and the incidence of diabetic complications and diabetes-related events in a large, ethnically diverse, and well-defined population of diabetes mellitus patients.

Ethnic Disparities in Diabetes Complications
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Karter, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study seeks to evaluate ethnic differences in the incidence and antecedents of diabetic complications in a large population of African Americans, Asians, Caucasians, Hispanics and Latinos, and evaluate health services and epidemiologic aspects of diabetic complications in the United States including myocardial infarction, stroke, congestive heart failure, end-stage renal disease, lower-extremity amputation and percutaneous revascularization.

Glycemic Response to Therapy
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Karter, PhD
Primary Source of Funding: Novartis Foundation
This one-year study of the real-world effectiveness of diabetes therapies involves whether the type of insulin (or improvement in HbA1c) affects the initiation of new diabetes therapies versus age of glycemic and risk categories in patients with diabetes.

Hypertension, Dyslipidemia, and Diabetes Mellitus: Prevalence, Co-occurrence, Treatment, and Control in a Large Managed Care Population
Principal Investigator: Joseph N. Selby, MD, MPH
Funding: Pfizer Inc.
This study analyzes the prevalence, co-occurrence, and treatment patterns of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and dyslipidemia.

Incidence of Lung Cancer, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Pneumonia and Pulmonary Fibrosis Among Persons with and without Diabetes Mellitus
Principal Investigator: Assanisi Ferra, MD, PhD
Funding: Pfizer Inc.
This study seeks to determine the incidence of lung cancer in a cohort of diabetic patients, and to estimate the incidence of lung cancer in diabetic patients and in a non-diabetic population.

Increasing the Evidence Base for Retinopathy Screening Guidelines
Principal Investigator: Joseph V. Selby, MD, MPH
Funding: American Diabetes Association
This study examines clinical outcomes following negative retinal screening examinations and exams showing only minimal retinopathy in diabetic patients, while the goal of identifying optimal screening intervals following these examinations.

Macular Edema and Glucose Control Among Type 2 Diabetics
Principal Investigator: Assanisi Ferra, MD, PhD
Funding: SmithKline Beecham
This study seeks to determine the extent and nature of polypharmacy, to list drug interactions that should be monitored, and to study whether glycemic control varies by medication use.

Measuring Clinical Benefit and Value of Diabetes Care
Principal Investigator: Joseph V. Selby, MD, MPH
Funding: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
This is the first phase of a project that seeks to improve current methods of measuring and comparing the performance of disease management programs for diabetes.

Natural History of Glycemic Control Among Patients with Diabetes
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Karter, PhD
Funding: Pfizer Inc.
This observational study examines how glycemic control in diabetic patients varies by treatment regimen, and how glycemic control changes over time.

Probability of Treating-Again-To-Target: Type 2 Diabetic Patients from the Northern California Kaiser Permanente Diabetes Registry: Starting New Anti-Hyperglycemic Therapies
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Karter, PhD
Funding: Pfizer Inc.
This epidemiologic study evaluates the proportion of patients with Type 2 diabetes who are switched to new diabetes therapies and remain on medications over the long term.

The Epidemiology of Anemia in Patients With Diabetes
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Karter, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program
This cohort and nested case-control study characterizes the

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testing, prevalence, predictors, and treatment of clinicallyrecognized anemia in a large, ethnically diverse, well-defined population of adult diabetic patients.

Translational Research Center for Diabetics Control Within Managed Care I and II
Principal Investigator: Joseph S. Selby, MD, MPH
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This project evaluates the prevalence and incidence of diabetes and related outcomes after collection of data on risk factors, treatment, and outcomes of diabetes and related outcomes among patients in different ethnic groups.

Etiology of Childhood Stroke
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen D. Silverman, MD, MPH
Funding: American Heart Association

This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of childhood stroke and related outcomes after collection of data on risk factors, treatment, and outcomes of childhood stroke and related outcomes among patients in different ethnic groups.

Ethnic Disparities in Perinatal Outcomes
Site Principal Investigator: Gabriela V. Escobar, MD
Funding: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

This study aims to explore the relationship between perinatal outcomes and socio-economic status, and to identify factors that influence the effectiveness of care among rural and urban communities.

Increasing Effectiveness of Cancer Care Interventions
Enrolling Vietnamese and Chinese Women in Breast Cancer Treatment and Prevention Trials
Site Principal Investigator: Carol P. Stowers, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study explores the barriers inhibiting the participation of Asian American women in breast cancer treatment and prevention trials.

Oakland eCare Program
Principal Investigator: Erin L. Hankins, MA
Funding: Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Memorial Fund

This randomized controlled trial will examine the effects of a web-based program on the health outcomes of patients with diabetes.

Patient-Clinician Factors Influencing Risk/Effect Variation in the Treatment of Cancer Disease: The REMOVE CHD Study
Site Principal Investigator: Alex S. Chiu, MD
Funding: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

This study examines variation in the treatment of cancer disease and its impact on patient outcomes.

Etiology of Childhood Stroke
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen D. Silverman, MD, MPH
Funding: American Heart Association

This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of childhood stroke and related outcomes after collection of data on risk factors, treatment, and outcomes of childhood stroke and related outcomes among patients in different ethnic groups.

Optimal Brain Health in the Elderly
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen D. Silverman, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institutes of Health

This study assesses the impact of brain health interventions on cognitive function in a sample of seniors age 65 and older, in addition to obtaining DNA samples from a subset of the cohort.

Savor Immunization Status Validation Study
Site Principal Investigator: Nancy P. Conlon, MD
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This study builds a sprocket immunization status validation using electronic medical records as an efficient and accurate way to assess the validity of the data source and to determine contact rates by sex, ethnicity, and education.

A Cohort Study of Risk Factors for Liver Cirrhosis
Site Adjunct Principal Investigator: Arthur K. Klatsky, MD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs

This study seeks to identify risk factors in a large, multiethnic cohort of men and women, confirm the diagnosis and determine the etiology of the underlying liver disease.

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Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs

This study seeks to identify risk factors in a large, multiethnic cohort of men and women, confirm the diagnosis and determine the etiology of the underlying liver disease.
Etiology/Prevalence of Barrett's Esophagus
Principal Investigator: Douglas A. Corley, MD, MPH, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This project evaluates the etiology of Barrett's esophagus, with a focus on understanding the role of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors in its development.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Registry
Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs
This project develops a database of patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) through the collaboration of gastroenterologists within Kaiser Permanente.

Populations of Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Hennessy, PhD
Funding: National Institutes of Health
This study examines the prevalence and characteristics of IBD in different populations to identify risk factors and potential interventions.

Population-Based Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) incidence and Prevalence by Disease Subtype and Severity
Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Hennessy, PhD
Funding: Crohn's and Colitis Foundation
This project investigates the incidence and prevalence of IBD by disease subtype and severity, using a population-based registry assembly from community data.

Safety of Patients with Liver Disease
Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: Merck & Co., Inc.
This study assesses the safety of Ursodeoxycholic acid in patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.

Sentinel Surveillance for Chronic Liver Disease
Principal Investigator: M. Michela Moras, PhD, MPH
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
This project aims to develop a surveillance system for chronic liver disease, focusing on early detection and intervention strategies.

Gene, Environment, and Parkinson's Disease: Studies in Four Unique Cohorts
Principal Investigator: Stephen Y. Lee, MD
Funding: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
This project seeks to understand the genetic, epigenetic, and environmental factors influencing the development of Parkinson's disease.

Genetic Vulnerability and Prenatal Exposure to the Epidemiology of Schizophrenia: A Birth Cohort Study
Principal Investigator: Catherine Schaefer, PhD
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study explores the role of prenatal exposure to environmental factors in the development of schizophrenia.

Health Plans' Attitudes Toward Genetic Research
Principal Investigator: Catherine Schaefer, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs
This project assesses the attitudes of health plans towards genetic research and its impact on patient care.

Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) and the Risk of Precipitation
Principal Investigator: Chi-Kuo Li, MD, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs
This study examines the relationship between HLA alleles and the risk of precipitation events in patients with autoimmune diseases.

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MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH GENERAL

Pregnancy and Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) and Type 2 Diabetes
Principal Investigator: Erica P. Gunderson, MD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study seeks to understand the factors associated with the development of CVD and Type 2 diabetes during pregnancy.

A Phase III, Randomized, Double-Blind, Multicenter Clinical Trial Comparing the Safety and Efficacy of Voriconazole versus Placebo for the Prevention of Nosocomial Staphylococcal Sepsis in Premature Infants (8
Weight 500-1250g) (GSX-CL005)
Principal Investigator: Gabrielle C. Tolar, MD
Funding: investigator initiated
This study evaluates the safety and efficacy of voriconazole for the prevention of nosocomial staphylococcal sepsis in premature infants.

An Economic and Policy Analysis of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Stimulant Drugs
Principal Investigator: Lewis A. Hazell, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Mental Health
This study aims to evaluate the economic and policy implications of ADHD and stimulant drugs.

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placental thrombosis and neurologic outcome
(IPLADO) study
Principal investigator: Lisa A. Copen, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program
This retrospective cohort study examines the risk of neurologic
impairment in early childhood associated with a history of placental
thrombosis.

pregnancy outcomes in women with inflammatory
renal disease (BID)
Site principal investigator: Douglas A. Covley, MD, MPh, PhD
Funding: Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America
This study examines whether use of nonsteroidal anti-
inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) during pregnancy, especially
around the time of conception, increases the risk of
preterm, perinatal, and neonatal risk factors for
childhood autism
Principal investigator: Lisa A. Copen, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program
This case-control study characterizes autism risk in relation
to several perinatal, per- and neonatal factors, in a well-defined,
insured population in the United States.

rapid retrieval of intermediate outcome data in
neonates: The Kaiser permanente neonatal minimum
data set (KNMDS)
Principal investigator: Gabriel J. Escobar, MD
Funding: National Institute of Child Health and Human
Development
This study examines how use of nonsteroidal anti-
inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) during pregnancy, especially
around the time of conception, increases the risk of
preterm, perinatal, and neonatal risk factors for
childhood autism
Principal investigator: Lisa A. Copen, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program
This study demonstrates continued questions about pregnancy
intention among parents and compares data to national data
statistics about pregnancy intentions.

Allocating resources to the study of the effects of environmental
exposure during pregnancy
Principal investigator: Gerald N. Delorey, PhD
Funding: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program
Using objective tests of pulmonary function, this study examines
the effect of maternal smoking during pregnancy. The study
randomly selects a group of mothers and compares them to
non-smoking mothers to determine the impact of smoking during
pregnancy on lung function in children.

High-risk Women Refusing Substance Abuse Intervention
During Prenatal Care
Principal investigator: Mary Anne Armstrong, MA
Funding: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
This study seeks to characterize the subgroup of pregnant
women who refuse substance abuse intervention during pregnancy
but refuse intervention by employing both retrospective and
prospective methods of data collection.

How Much Does She Really Drink? An HMO Intervention
Principal investigator: Mary Anne Armstrong, MA
Funding: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
This study seeks to increase awareness of the importance of
alcohol abuse in pregnancy and to demonstrate the
effectiveness of an HMO intervention for reducing
alcohol consumption among pregnant women.
MENTAL HEALTH

A Comparison of the Incidence of Suicide Attempts and Completed Suicides, Patient Compliance, Adverse Events, and the Need for Supplemental Antidepressants Medications Among Bipolar Patients Treated With Lithium (Extended and Immediate Release) or Depakote in a Managed Care Setting

Site Principal Investigator: Emd M. Hunker, MA
Funding: Salix Pharmaceuticals

This describes study.

Developmental Inuit and Brain Anatomy in Schizophrenia

Site Principal Investigator: Carianne Scherer, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Mental Health

This article is about the impact of schizophrenia on neural and mental health. The study uses MRI to examine the relationship between brain growth and environment. The study found that babies born to schizophrenic mothers have more brain growth than those born to healthy mothers.

Glycemic Control in Patients with Depression and Diabetes Mellitus: Impact of Treatment for Depression

Site Principal Investigator: Emd M. Hunker, MA
Funding: John A. Hartford Foundation

This study determines the effects of collaborative care for depression in diabetes mellitus. The study also shows that patients with diabetes mellitus who receive collaborative care have better glycemic control than those who do not.

The Depression Initiative II

Principal Investigator: Emd M. Hunker, MA
Funding: Kaiser Permanente

This study examines the benefits of collaborative care for depression in diabetes mellitus. The study shows that collaborative care improves glycemic control and reduces depression in patients with diabetes mellitus.

Weight Maintenance Following Weight Management Interventions for Children

Principal Investigator: Bette J. Caan, DrPH
Funding: Kaiser Permanente

This study examines the effectiveness of weight management interventions for children. The study found that children who received weight management interventions had lower rates of weight gain and better weight management outcomes compared to those who did not receive interventions.

Pre-diagnosed Markers of Infection and Risk of Multiple Sclerosis

Site Principal Investigator: Geralyn N. DeMolen, MD
Funding: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

This study examines the relationship between pre-diagnosed markers of infection and the risk of multiple sclerosis. The study found that pre-diagnosed markers of infection are associated with a higher risk of multiple sclerosis.

Exogenous Toxins and Genetic Susceptibility to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Den Eeden, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

This study examines the relationship between exogenous toxins and genetic susceptibility to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The study found that exposure to certain environmental toxins is associated with a higher risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

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Epidemiology of Physical Activity and Cervical Function
Site Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study examines the influence of physical activity on cervical function, including different patient groups.

Influence of Physical Activity on Body Composition and Metabolism During the Menopause Transition
Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study examines the influence of physical activity on body composition and metabolism during the menopause transition.

Reproductive Risk Factors for Pelvic Organ Prolapse
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Den Eeden, PhD
Funding: National Institutes of Health
This study examines the influence of reproductive risk factors for pelvic organ prolapse.

Sleep During the Perimenopause in a Multi-Ethnic Cohort: A SWAN Sub-study
Site Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study examines the influence of sleep during the perimenopause in a multi-ethnic cohort.

Women's Health

Burden of Illness Associated with Premenstrual Syndrome
Site Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: Lilly and Company
This study examines the burden of illness associated with premenstrual syndrome.

Women's Health Initiative: Bone Density
Site Principal Investigator: Bette J. Caan, DPhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study examines the influence of physical activity on bone density in women.


NEWMAN TR, Uijtewaal P, Escobar GJ. Infants with bidimensional levels of 10 ng/mL or more: a large management care organization. Pediatrics 2001; Jun; 111(6 Pt 1):1038-11.


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Sixty years ago, when Kaiser Permanente began providing health care to shipyard workers, Sidney Garfield, a co-founder, wrote that the organization should always provide its own research since health services research is essential to providing and maintaining a high quality of patient care and services.

This 2003–2004 Research Activities Report of the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research demonstrates that this goal of our founders' is being fulfilled. The continuing growth and expansion of the Division of Research promises a rewarding future.

The high quality of research conducted by Kaiser Permanente has been acclaimed nationally as a model for prepaid group practices. The Division of Research has been applauded for its large and varied body of published research, for the research methods employed, for the research areas examined and reported, and for the effects of its research on medical practice.

Morris F. Collen, M.D., Director Emeritus
KAISER PERMANENTE

THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH conducts, publishes, and disseminates high-quality epidemiologic and health services research to improve the health and medical care of Kaiser Permanente members and the society at large. It seeks to understand the determinants of illness and well being and to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care. To accomplish these goals, the Division of Research is committed to providing a supportive research environment that fosters independent thinking, creativity, continued learning and adherence to the highest scientific standards.