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.
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ON THE COVER: A glimpse outside of DOEs 2000 Broadway location in Oakland, California. Construction was completed in February of 2002.
**Letter from the Director**

**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 200 projects they currently have underway.

The DOR conducts research among the 3+ million Kaiser Permanente members of Northern California using interviews, automated data, medical records, and clinical examinations. DOR researchers have contributed over 1700 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 of the scope achievable within 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 members from elsewhere within 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 a 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.

Joe V. Seely, MD, MPH has led the Division of Research since December since 1998.
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 publications research that is of interest and 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 Medical Record Analyst Department provides data retrieval consulting services. 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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HEALTHCARE EFFECTIVENESS

HEALTH CARE 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 Health Plans, 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, some 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 the electronic 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 Intergroup 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. There 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 & Prevention

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 stable population that is represented by 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 NH2O Research Network and the Cancer Research Network, also involving 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 survival, and also has two of 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 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 sleep 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 examples 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 treat cryptorchidism until an older age (greater than 11 years old) is associated with a substantially elevated risk of testicular cancer. An area of growing research interest is the role of genetic factors in the etiology and prognosis of diseases. 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 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 Borghi, R.N. With an annual clinical research budget of nearly $3 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 oversee by the California Department of Health Services, the Joint Commission for Accreditation for Health Care Organizations (JACNO), 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.
- Designated 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, Auto 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 a refrigerator for short 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 several 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 2005, 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 the onset of 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.

**STEPHEN SYDENY, M.D., M.P.H.** has worked at DOR since 1982. In 1999, he became the Associate Director for Clinical Research.
NEW FACES

Elise M. Brown, J.D., MPH

Elise 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.
RESEARCH

SCIENTISTS
Research Scientists, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California, Oakland, CA.

Education: MD (Medicine), University of California, San Francisco, CA; residency in internal medicine.

Academic Affiliations: Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA. Member of the Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Research Overview: This scientist focuses on the development and evaluation of new interventions for the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases. Their research includes a wide range of topics, from the genetics of obesity to the effectiveness of lifestyle interventions in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease. They also conduct clinical trials to test the efficacy of new medications and therapies.

Research Interests: Preventive medicine, chronic disease prevention, lifestyle interventions, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and genetic epidemiology.

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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.

M. S. MILLER, M.D., is a DOR Director Emeritus and currently resides in San Diego, California. Dr. Miller maintains an active role as a consultant to both DOR and Kaiser Permanente.

S. O. Theisen, M.D., is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. His primary research interest is in the epidemiology of infectious diseases.

K. L. B. SIMON, M.D., is a Research Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of infectious diseases.

J. W. T. YAN, M.D., is an Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. His research interests include the epidemiology of infectious diseases and the impact of environmental factors on health outcomes.

M. N. YASMIN, M.D., is a Research Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of infectious diseases and the impact of environmental factors on health outcomes.
COMMITTEES & AWARDS

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) Intramural Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She is also a Member of the Kaiser Permanente Central Research Committee, the Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) Perinatal Substance Abuse Task Force, the KPNC Listening to Mothers Service Enhancement Strategy Meeting Planning Committee, the Division of Research (DOR) Career Development Committee, the DOR Program/Initiative Steering Committee, and Chair of the DOR Local Research Committee.

Andrew L. Arviso is a Member of the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine’s National Research Committee, the Co-Director of the Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research Committee of the University of California, San Francisco, Other Center for Integrative Medicine, Member, and a Member of both the DOR Data Committee and the DOR Investigator Career Development Committee. Dr. Arviso is also a member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Steven Black is a Member of the Kaiser Permanente Research Compliance Oversight Committee and the Chair of the KPNC Clinical Trials Committee.

Berta J. Caun 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 past Chair of the Women’s Health Initiative Steering Committee, Performance Monitoring Committee, and the Delayed Macromolecules Committee. Dr. Caun is the Chair of the Women’s Health and Lifestyle Committee and the Chair of the San Francisco District Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee for the city of San Francisco. She is also an ad-hoc reviewer for the NIH and behavioral medicine. Dr. Caun is a past Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Douglas A. Corley is a Member of the American Gastroenterological Association’s Gastrointestinal Oncology section and the Endoscopy section. He is also an Ad-Hoc Member for NIH study sections and a Member of the DOR Career Development Committee. Dr. Corley maintains the role of consulting physician for the San Francisco, CA chapter of the Kaiser Permanente Children’s Health Care Foundation (KPC) support group.

Lisa A. Croen is an active Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee and the DOR Local Research Committee.

Gerald N. Deboer is a Member of both the DOR Local Research Committee and the Investigator and Biostatistician Career Development Committee.

Gabriel J. Escobar is a Member of The Perinatal Medical Group’s Nursing Directors and Interim Committees, and a past Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Antonio Ferrara is a Member of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Council for Epidemiology and Biostatistics and of the ADA Council for Diabetes in Pregnancy. She is a past Member of the NIH Special Study Section for Epidemiology and Disease Control

investigator and a past Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Pamela A. Gordon is a Member of the KPNC Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research Committee.

She also received the 2002 Alinsky/Alan Kornblum/ National Institutes of Health (NIH) Intramural Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She is also a Member of the Kaiser Permanente Central Research Committee, a Member of the DOR Investigator and Biostatistician Career Development Committee.

Alan S. Go is the Chair of the NIH Hospital Services Organization and Delivery (HSOD) Health Services Research and Epidemiology Study Section, and a Member of the American College of Cardiology Committee on Development of Data Standards for Atrial Fibrillation, and the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology/American Medical Association Group on Performance Measures for Atrial Fibrillation. He also is a Member of the American College of Chest Physicians Seventh Congress Conference Workgroup on Anticoagulation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation, and as a former Member of the American Heart Association/American Medical Association Group on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Vascular Disease, a former Member of the Kaiser Permanente Central Research Committee, and a past Member of the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee.

Leila S. Habel is an Associate Director for the NIH Intramural Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She is also a Member of both the DOR Scientific Planning and Policy Committee, and a past Member of the DOR Research Development Coordinator Center.
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 national RF study will investigate the different rates and levels of adherence to medication regimens when they are on HAART only, HAART and when SSRIs are added, or when SSRIs were present before HAART.

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

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

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

This is a Kaiser Permanente program wide analysis of an HIV+ HCV+ cohort, including testing rates in the organization will be compared to the VAP 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

This PRAM 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-atherogenic hyperlipidemia.

**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. DiRienzo, PhD

**Funding:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

This Task Order investigates the occurrence of preventable medical
Methionyl Cysteine and Risk of Acute Myocardial Infarction, Coronary Heart Disease, and Stroke

Principal Investigator: Andrew Szyf, MD, PhD
Funding: National Institutes of Health (NIDDK)

This study assesses the prevalence of atherosclerosis and its risk factors in the general population. The study aims to identify individuals at risk for developing cardiovascular disease and to develop effective prevention strategies.

Clinical and Cost-Effectiveness of Outpatient Cancer Care

Principal Investigator: Constance M. Weiner, DrPH, MPH
Funding: National Institutes of Health (NIDDK)

This study examines the impact of outpatient cancer care on patient outcomes, costs, and quality of life. The study uses a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and chart reviews, to evaluate the effectiveness of outpatient cancer care.

Pathways to Substance Abuse Treatment in Adolescents: An Implementation of Policy

Principal Investigator: Stacy Sterling, MSW, MPH
Funding: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Center for Substance Abuse Research

This study explores the implementation of policies aimed at reducing substance abuse among adolescents. The study uses qualitative and quantitative methods to assess the impact of these policies on substance abuse rates and treatment outcomes.

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. The study uses a case-control design to compare women who had induced abortions with those who did not.

Long-Term Health Outcomes in Breast Cancer Survivors

Principal Investigator: Elissa J. Cohen, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the long-term health outcomes of breast cancer survivors, including quality of life, functional status, and risk of secondary breast cancer.

Mammographic Density in a Multi-Ethnic Cohort

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

This study examines the relationship between mammographic density and breast cancer risk across different ethnic groups. The study uses a cross-sectional design to collect mammographic images and correlate them with breast cancer risk factors.

The Bay Area Breast and the Environment Research Center

Principal Investigator: Lawrence H. Kushi, ScD
Funding: National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences

This center examines the role of environmental factors in breast cancer development. The center conducts epidemiological studies and focuses on the impact of environmental exposures on breast cancer risk.

Tumor Gene Expression and Breast Cancer Survival

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

This study examines the role of gene expression in breast cancer survival. The study uses a microarray analysis to identify genes that are associated with survival outcomes in breast cancer patients.

(continued on next page)
Cancer Surveillance in HMO Administrative Data

Site Principal Investigator: Charles P. Quevedo, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the presence and extent of biases associated with integrated delivery system electronic and claims-based encounter data when used to characterize patterns of care and to analyze the relationship between treatment and outcomes of breast and colorectal cancers.

Cohort Study of Risk of Lymphoepitheliomatous Carcinoma (LPC) Among Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Patients, by Severity of RA

Site Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Hamill, RN
Funding: Wech Pharmacology

This study evaluates standardized incidence rates for lymphoepitheliomatous cancers (lymphomas, mesothelioma, and leukemia) among RA patients with severe disease.

Evaluation of Hospice Referral and Palliative Care for Ovarian Cancer in the Senior Care Environment

Site Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Hamill, RN
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This study evaluates end-of-life care for women with ovarian cancer over the course of disease and symptom relief.

Multi-Site Study of Pancreatic Cancer Etiology

Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Den Berken, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This multi-site study examines behavioral and environmental risk factors for pancreatic cancer, and is a comprehensive study of genetic factors.

Epidemiology of Marginal Zone Lymphomas

Site Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Hamill, RN
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the occurrence of marginal zone lymphoma in the context of disease and symptom control.

Paternal Experience and Spinal Cord Injuries

Site Principal Investigator: Laurence H. Couwen, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This case-control study examines the impact of paternal environmental exposures on the development of spinal cord injury.

Insulin Resistance and Adiposity of the Colon (IRAC)

Site Principal Investigator: Theodore E. Levin, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the hypothesis that colorectal neoplasia risk is increased substantially by factors related to insulin resistance and examines the biologic mechanisms underlying the risk increase.

A Nested Case-Control Study of Lipid-Soluble, Estrogen-Responsive Gene Expression and Risk of Breast Cancer

Site Principal Investigator: Bette J. Caan, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the distribution of LPA and LPA2 in young adults, and their association with breast cancer risk.

Molecular Epidemiology of Fatal Prostate Cancer

Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Den Berken, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute

This study examines the distribution of molecular tumor markers that can predict prostate mortality among individuals with a risk of prostate cancer.

CARNOVIT AND CALREXAS

Acute Coronary Syndrome One-Year Total Costs and Clinical Outcomes in the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program, Northern California Region

Principal Investigator: Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH
Funding: EJ Lilly and Company

This study describes the distribution of LPA and LPA2 in young adults, and their association with breast cancer risk.

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A Prospective Study of Predictors of Heart Failure in a Large Population

Principal Investigator: Arthur Green, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This study examines the association of potential risk factors with incident heart failure among adults aged 50 years and older.

Clinical and Genetic Predictors of Myocardial Infarction in Coronary Disease

Principal Investigator: Alan S. Go, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This study examines the association of potential risk factors with incident myocardial infarction among adults aged 50 years and older.

Epidemiology of Cardiac Arrest in the United States: A Population-Based Study

Principal Investigator: Allen S. Go, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This study examines the association of potential risk factors with incident cardiac arrest among adults aged 50 years and older.

Prevalence and Incidence of Heart Failure in the United States: A Population-Based Study

Principal Investigator: Allen S. Go, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This study examines the association of potential risk factors with incident heart failure among adults aged 50 years and older.

California Near Fatal Asthma Surveillance Project

Principal Investigator: Stephen J. Publishing, PhD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This study examines the association of potential risk factors with incident asthma symptoms among adults aged 50 years and older.

Characteristics of Asthma Drug Exposures and Outcomes of an Algorithm for Identification of Patients With Airway Obstruction

Principal Investigator: Allen S. Go, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This study examines the association of potential risk factors with incident asthma symptoms among adults aged 50 years and older.

Disability and Health Outcomes in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Principal Investigator: Mark Eisner, MD
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This study examines the association of potential risk factors with incident disability among adults aged 50 years and older.
EFFICACY OF ACUPUNCTURE FOR CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN
Principal Investigator: Andrew A. Aron, MD, MPH
Funding: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
This randomized controlled trial is examining the use of acupuncture needling for the treatment of chronic low-back pain.

EFFECTIVENESS OF SAW PALMROOT EXTRACT FOR BONSAI PROSTATE HYPERPLASIA
Principal Investigator: Andrew A. Aron, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This single-center randomized clinical trial examines the effects of saw palmetto root on the symptoms and objective flow parameters of patients with benign prostatic hyperplasia.

MASSAGE THERAPY FOR CANCER-RELATED FATIGUE
Site Principal Investigator: Andrew A. Aron, MD, MPH
Funding: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
This randomized pilot trial is studying the use of massage therapy for treatment of fatigue in patients with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, with a focus on the development of valid methodology for studying the efficacy of massage therapies for highly subjective outcomes.

PHYTOTHERAPY FOR BONSAI PROSTATE HYPERPLASIA
Site Principal Investigator: Andrew A. Aron, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This randomized, multi-center randomized clinical trial examines the effects of salvia and eight other African plants on the risk of developing treatment of patients with benign prostatic hyperplasia.

DIABETES
COHORT STUDY OF PREGNANCY AND DiABETES: THE EUROPEAN EPIMIC DELAY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Site Principal Investigator: Alessandra Fierro, MD, PhD
Funding: Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America
This study examines the impact of gestational diabetes on maternal and infant health outcomes.

DECREASE IN GLUCOSE LEVELS IN INDIVIDUALS WITH Type 2 Diabetes
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kasen, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study investigates the relationship between glucose levels and physical activity in individuals with Type 2 diabetes.

INCIDENCE OF TYPE 2 DIABETES AND CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE
Principal Investigator: Alessandra Fierro, MD, PhD
Funding: Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America
This study examines the incidence and risk factors for Type 2 diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a cohort of individuals with and without Type 2 diabetes.

INCREASE IN THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR RETINOIDS AND GLUCOCORTICOIDS
Screening Guidelines
Principal Investigator: Joseph V. Selby, MD, MPH
Funding: American Diabetes Association
This study explores the use of retinoids and glucocorticoids for screening in Type 2 diabetes patients, with the goal of identifying optimal screening intervals following these screenings.

METHIONINE L-AMINO ACID GLUCOSE CONTROL AMONG Type 2 Diabetics
Principal Investigator: Alessandra Fierro, MD, PhD
Funding: SmithKline Beecham
This study examines the role of methionine as a glucose control agent in Type 2 diabetes.

PROBABILITY OF TREATMENT-RESPONSIVE TARGETS: TYPE 2 DIABETES PATIENTS FROM THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA KASER PERMANENTE DIABETES REGISTRY "STARTING NEW ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPIES"
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kasen, PhD
Funding: Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America
This study evaluates the probability of treatment-responsive targets in patients with Type 2 diabetes starting new anti-hyperglycemic therapies.

THE EPIGENETICS OF ANEMIA IN PATIENTS WITH DIABETES
Principal Investigator: Andrew J. Kasen, PhD
Funding: Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America
This study investigates the relationship between diabetes and anemia, focusing on epigenetic mechanisms.

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

Translational Research Center for Diabetic Control Within Managed Care I and II
Principal Investigator: Joseph S. Sibby, MD, MPH
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
This project identifies new targets of cardiovascular disease in diabetes, and risk factors for cardiovasculardisease.

Ethnic Disparities in Cardiovascular Disease
Site Principal Investigator: Steven Sidney, MD, MPH
Funding: American Heart Association
This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of cardiovascular disease among patients in different ethnic groups.

Increasing Effectiveness of Cancer Control Interventions
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Eenam, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study investigates the role of diabetes in the occurrence of cancer among women.

Oakland eCare2 Project
Site Principal Investigator: Ewald H. Hanks, MA
Funding: Kaiser Permanente
This study examines the barriers and incentives for the use of diabetes management tools.

Disability of Functional Limitations in the Elderly (FLAP)
Site Principal Investigator: Joseph S. Sibby, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of disability among older adults in the elderly population.

Optimal Brain Health in the Elderly
Site Principal Investigator: Steven Sidney, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study evaluates the effectiveness of a diabetes management program in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

A Cohort Study of Risk Factors for Liver Cirrhosis
Site Principal Investigator: Ronald F. Levis, MD
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of liver cirrhosis among patients with diabetes.

Compliance with the Guidelines for Diabetes Mellitus
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Eenam, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of diabetes among patients with liver cirrhosis.

Optimal Brain Health in the Elderly
Site Principal Investigator: Steven Sidney, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of diabetes among patients with liver cirrhosis.

A Cohort Study of Risk Factors for Liver Cirrhosis
Site Principal Investigator: Ronald F. Levis, MD
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study evaluates the prevalence and incidence of liver cirrhosis among patients with diabetes.
Etiologies/Surveillance 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 endoscopic surveillance in patients with the premalignant condition of Barrett's esophagus, and investigates environmental, dietary, and pharmacologic risk factors for Barrett's esophagus.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Registry
Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program
This project develops a database of patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) through linking of existing administrative and clinical databases. This data will be used to study practice patterns, health economics, and epidemiology of IBD.

Long-Term, Prospective, Observational Study of the Risk of Cancer Among Pankreatitis Users
Site Principal Investigator: Douglas A. Corley, MD, MPH, PhD
Funding: Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
This study examines pregnancy outcomes in a population-based sample of women with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and women without IBD.

Natural History of Uterine Cervix Following Initial Hospitalization
Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Henrotin, PhD
Funding: Protein Design Labs, Inc.
This study assesses rates of resolution, colostomy, radiation, and stent dependency, as well as survival and complication rates among the group of patients with severe ulcerative colitis.

Population-Based Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Incidence and Prevalence by Disease Subtype and Severity
Principal Investigator: Lisa J. Henrotin, PhD
Funding: Centros and Cole's Foundation
This project examines the incidence and prevalence of IBD by disease subtype and severity using a national population-based registry assembled from cancer registry data.

Safety of Stents in Patients with Liver Disease
Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: Abbott and Company, Inc.
The goal of this study is to evaluate the safety of inpatient and other stent-related interventions in patients with portal hypertension.

Sentinel Surveillance for Chronic Liver Disease
Site Principal Investigator: M. Michalis Manou, PhD, MPH
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
This project seeks to determine the incidence of chronic hepatitis diagnosed in a defined geographic area; the relative contribution of chronic HBV, HCV, and other etiologies to the burden of disease; and the influence of strategic agents and other factors on morbidity and mortality.

Retrospective Cohort Pilot Study of Potential Hepatotoxicity of Olanzapine in the Kaiser Permanente Population
Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: Merck and Company, Inc.
This study describes the potential hepatotoxicity of olanzapine in the Kaiser Permanente population.

Sexual Transmission of Hepatitis C Among Steady Partners
Site Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
This study evaluates risk factors for the transmission of hepatitis C among stable heterosexual partners.

Targeting Delivery and Improving Use of POBT (Fecal Occult Blood Tests)
Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: Scopes, Inc.
This study evaluates the feasibility of a direct mailed strategy of intermittent fecal occult blood testing among men aged 50-75.

GENETICS
Colorectal Cancer Screening: Fecal Blood vs DNA
Site Principal Investigator: Theodore R. Levin, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study prospectively assesses a multi-center DNA-based assay system on stool.

Epidemiologic and Genetic Studies of Breast Cancer
Site Principal Investigator: Lawrence H. Kinney, MD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This project continues the Breast Cancer Family Study with projects involving the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, estrogen-receptor status, and molecular characteristics of breast cancer.

Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology of Adult Glucose Site Principal Investigator: Geraldo M. Delorey, PhD
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study identifies relatively homogeneous, genetically defined subgroups of patients with diabetes and identifies subgroups using risk factors for these subgroups.

Genetic Epidemiology of Cardiovascular Disease and Healthy Aging - Project 3 of the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiometabolic Research Center at Stanford University
Site Principal Investigator: Carl Doihim, MD, MPH, PhD
Funding: Donald W. Reynolds Foundation
This project examines the lifestyle, environment, and genetic risk factors in the etiopathogenesis of schizophrenia.

Health Plan Members' Attitudes Toward Genetic Research
Principal Investigator: Catherine Schaefer, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs
This project supports the inclusion of a survey concerning attitudes toward participation in genetic research.

Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Homozygosity/Sharing and the Risk of Preeclampsia
Principal Investigator: Wei Li, MD, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program
This study examines the role of homozygosity at the HLA alleles and the transmission of the shared alleles to offspring in increasing the risk of preeclampsia.

Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Sharing and the Risk of Preterm Delivery
Principal Investigator: Wei Li, MD, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program
This study examines the role of sharing of HLA alleles and the transmission of the shared alleles to offspring in increasing the risk of preterm delivery.

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Inflammation/Thrombosis Genomics and Subclinical Coronary Atherosclerosis: A Coronary Heart Disease Risk Factors in Young Adults (CARDIA) Ancillary Study  
Site Principal Investigator: Center for Heart Disease Research and Prevention  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services

The study associations the assessment of common patterns of genetic variation (genotyping) with the development of clinical outcomes in individuals with cardiovascular disease risk factors. This study examines how genetic variation influences the risk of coronary heart disease in young adults.

Impact of Sedentary Behavior on the Risk of Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease  
Principal Investigator: J. Michael Sallis, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Aging

This study explores the relationship between sedentary behavior and the risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The study examines the impact of reducing sedentary behavior on health outcomes in adults.

Health-Related Quality of Life  
Principal Investigator: Jane E. Ettner, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the relationship between health-related quality of life and various health outcomes, including the impact of chronic diseases on daily functioning.

Mental Health  
Principal Investigator: Roland M. P. Verheul, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of mental health on physical health outcomes, including the effect of depression and anxiety on chronic conditions.

Nutrition and Physical Activity  
Principal Investigator: Sharon A. Murphy, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the relationship between nutrition and physical activity on health outcomes, including the impact of diet and exercise on chronic disease prevention.

Environmental Health  
Principal Investigator: John H. Hales, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of environmental factors on health outcomes, including the impact of air pollution on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Healthcare Utilization and Cost  
Principal Investigator: Kathleen E. O'Hare, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the relationship between healthcare utilization and cost on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare access on disease management.

Healthcare Delivery and Policy  
Principal Investigator: Joel A. Cohn, MD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare delivery and policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Disparities  
Principal Investigator: Center for Health Disparities Research and Prevention  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the impact of healthcare disparities on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare access on disease management.

Healthcare System  
Principal Investigator: John H. Hales, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare system on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Policy  
Principal Investigator: Center for Health Disparities Research and Prevention  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the impact of healthcare policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Delivery and Policy  
Principal Investigator: Joel A. Cohn, MD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare delivery and policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare System  
Principal Investigator: John H. Hales, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare system on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Policy  
Principal Investigator: Center for Health Disparities Research and Prevention  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the impact of healthcare policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

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Principal Investigator: Joel A. Cohn, MD  
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Principal Investigator: John H. Hales, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare system on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Policy  
Principal Investigator: Center for Health Disparities Research and Prevention  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the impact of healthcare policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Delivery and Policy  
Principal Investigator: Joel A. Cohn, MD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare delivery and policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare System  
Principal Investigator: John H. Hales, PhD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare system on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Policy  
Principal Investigator: Center for Health Disparities Research and Prevention  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study investigates the impact of healthcare policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.

Healthcare Delivery and Policy  
Principal Investigator: Joel A. Cohn, MD  
Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Health

This study examines the impact of healthcare delivery and policy on health outcomes, including the impact of healthcare delivery on disease prevention and management.
**Maternal and Child Health General**

### Gestational Diabetes: Diagnostic Criteria and Outcomes

**Principal Investigator:** Assunta Ferrari, MD, PhD  
**Funding:** National Institutes of Health, General Clinical Research Centers  
**Background:** This study examines patterns of care and outcomes of women with gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) and identifies factors associated with their level of care and outcomes.

### Impact of Insulin Therapy on Women's Health

**Principal Investigator:** Bruce Freiman, MD  
**Funding:** Eli Lilly and Company  
**Background:** This study examines the impact of insulin therapy on women's health and quality of life.

### Infant Sleep Position and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Risk

**Principal Investigator:** De-Guy Li, MD, PhD  
**Funding:** National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development  
**Background:** This study examines the relationship between infant sleep position and SIDS risk.

### Pregnancy and Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) and Type 2 Diabetes

**Principal Investigator:** Enrico P. Gundra, MD  
**Funding:** National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
**Background:** This study examines the relationship between pregnancy and risk factors for CVD and Type 2 diabetes.

### Maternal and Child Health General

#### A Phase Ill, Randomized, Double-Blind, Multicenter Clinical Trial Comparing the Safety and Efficacy of Voriconazole versus Placebo for the Prevention of Noninvasive Staphylococcal Sepsis in Premature Infants

**Principal Investigator:** Gabriel J. Escobar, MD  
**Funding:** GlaxoSmithKline  
**Background:** This study examines the safety and efficacy of voriconazole compared to placebo for the prevention of noninvasive staphylococcal sepsis in premature infants.

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Five-Year Outcome of Severe Neonatal Jaundice and Dehydration (JH5)

Adjoint Principal Investigator: Thomas Newman, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

This study assesses outcomes intelligence quotient and neurological status of children with severe jaundice and dehydration as newborns.

Further Analysis of Data on the Relationship Between Prenatal Exposure to EMF and the Risk of Misscarriage

Principal Investigator: Robert U, MD, PhD
Funding: California Department of Health Services

This study explores associations of factors that may explain the observed association between magnetic field exposure and the risk of miscarriage on a previously defined cohort.

Individual, Family, and Societal Impact of Infant Feeding

Site Principal Investigator: Daniel L, MD, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

This retrospective cohort study examines whether breastfeeding practices vary by race and gender, leading to increases in lactation and infant health outcomes, as compared to trends reported for non-lactating women.

Infant Functional Status and Developmental Milestones

Site Principal Investigator: Garth J, MD
Funding: Maternal and Child Health Bureau

This project aims to design methodologies based on developmentally appropriate algorithms for subsequent infant outcomes.

Longitudinal Maternal Health and Adverse Birth Outcomes

Site Principal Investigator: Garth J, MD
Funding: Maternal and Child Health Bureau

This study assesses the effects of preconceptional health status on perinatal and early childhood outcomes, with a focus on mediation factors.

Longitudinal Study of Mood Circumstances in Autism: A Pilot Project

Principal Investigator: Lisa A, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

This case-control study examines the impact of preconceptional health status on perinatal outcomes, with a focus on mediation factors.

Placental Thrombos and Neurologic Outcome (PILOT Study)

Principal Investigator: Lisa A, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

This study assesses the impacts of placental thrombus on neurologic outcomes, with a focus on mediation factors.

Prenatal Period of Exposure to EMF and the Risk of Misscarriage

Principal Investigator: Robert U, MD, PhD
Funding: California Department of Health Services

This study explores associations of factors that may explain the observed association between magnetic field exposure and the risk of miscarriage on a previously defined cohort.

Prenatal Risk Factors in Pregnancy

Site Principal Investigator: Garth J, MD
Funding: Maternal and Child Health Bureau

This project aims to design methodologies based on developmentally appropriate algorithms for subsequent infant outcomes.

Unsereated Infants: Low Risk Babies in a High Risk Place

Site Principal Investigator: Garth J, MD
Funding: Maternal and Child Health Bureau

This study assesses the effects of preconceptional health status on perinatal and early childhood outcomes, with a focus on mediation factors.

Ascertainment of Environmental Exposure during Pregnancy

Principal Investigator: Garth J, MD
Funding: Maternal and Child Health Bureau

This study assesses the effects of preconceptional health status on perinatal and early childhood outcomes, with a focus on mediation factors.

High Risk Women Receiving 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 are identified as having substance abuse risk during pregnancy but refuse intervention, by employing both retrospective medical record reviews, and in-depth interviews.

How Much Does Sea-Tree Really Do? An HIV Intervention Project Among Pregnant Women in Northern California

Principal Investigator: Mary Anne Armstrong, MA
Funding: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

This study seeks to increase awareness of the importance of prenatal care in women, and to demonstrate the applicability of a simple, targeted intervention in a managed care environment.

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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: End M. Hunkeler, MA
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study examines the prevalence of depression, anxiety, and suicide attempts among patients treated with lithium or Depakote in a managed care setting.

Developing Insulin and Brain Anatomy in Schizophrenia
Site Principal Investigator: C. A. S. R. E. Foundation
Funding: National Institute of Mental Health
This study investigates the relationship between brain anatomy and the development of schizophrenia.

Glycemic Control in Patients with Depression and Diabetes Mellitus: Impact of Treatment for Depression
Site Principal Investigator: End M. Hunkeler, MA
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study evaluates the impact of treating depression on glycemic control in patients with diabetes.

Obesit Essential: Medical and Psychological Aspects
Site Principal Investigator: End M. Hunkeler, MA
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study examines the medical and psychological aspects of obesity.

The Depression Initiative II
Principal Investigator: End M. Hunkeler, MA
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study investigates the effectiveness of a depression management program.

The Prevalence, Costs, and Characteristics of Patients with Depression and Chronic Pain, Singly or Together
Site Principal Investigator: End M. Hunkeler, MA
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study examines the prevalence of depression and chronic pain in patients.

Understanding Depression and Other Comorbidities to Develop Suicide Behavior Intervention for Adolescents
Principal Investigator: Constance M. Weisner, PhD
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study investigates the relationship between depression and suicide in adolescents.

METABOLIC DISORDERS

Bariatric Surgery Registry Development
Principal Investigator: Stephen S. S. MD, MPH
Funding: Kaiser Permanente General Foundation
This study creates a registry to track outcomes of bariatric surgery.

Formal Weight Management Programs: Characteristics of Program Participants, Drop-Outs, and Predictors of Successful Weight-Related Behavior and Physiological Outcomes
Principal Investigator: Nancy P. Gomez, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs
This study examines the characteristics of individuals who successfully participate in weight management programs.

Health Care Utilization Patterns Among the Obese: Cost of Obesity
Principal Investigator: J. C. E. C. Foundation
Funding: Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.
This study examines the costs associated with obesity.

Health Characteristics, Health Behaviors, and Preventive Service Utilization of Obese vs Non-obese Members of a Large HMO
Principal Investigator: Nancy P. Gomez, PhD
Funding: Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs
This study examines the health characteristics and behaviors of obese and non-obese individuals.

Obesity Registry Pilot Study
Principal Investigator: Charles P. Geschke, MD
Funding: Roche Laboratories
This study creates a registry to track outcomes of obesity management programs.

Pre-diagnostic Markers of Infection and Risk of Multiple Sclerosis
Site Principal Investigator: J. R. D. N. D. Foundation
Funding: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
This study investigates pre-diagnostic markers and the risk of multiple sclerosis.

Weight Maintenance Following Weight Management Interventions for Children
Principal Investigator: J. A. C. D. Foundation
Funding: Eli Lilly and Company
This study examines the effectiveness of weight management interventions in children.

Weight Loss Maintenance Following Weight Management Interventions for Adolescents
Principal Investigator: Stephen S. S. MD, MPH
Funding: Kaiser Permanente General Foundation
This study examines the effectiveness of weight management interventions in adolescents.

NURONDOLOLOGIC DISORDERS

Pre-diagnostic Markers of Infection and Risk of Multiple Sclerosis
Site Principal Investigator: J. R. D. N. D. Foundation
Funding: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
This study investigates pre-diagnostic markers and the risk of multiple sclerosis.

Kangaroo Therapists and Genetic Susceptibility to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen S. S. MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
This study examines the relationship between Kangaroo Therapy and the genetic susceptibility to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

This study estimates the risk of ALS associated with exposure to selected occupational and environmental factors.

Exploring the Inverse Smoking Relation to Parkinson's Disease
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen S. S. MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
This study examines the inverse association between smoking and Parkinson's disease.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Collaborative Centers for Parkinson's Disease Environmental Research (CCEPRER)
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen S. S. MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
This study seeks to evaluate gene-environmental interactions in Parkinson's disease.

This study examines the relationship between Kangaroo Therapy and the genetic susceptibility to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

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Pilot Study of Retinoblastoma Syndrome in Kaiser Permanente
Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Der Eeden, PhD
Funding: Retinoblastoma Syndrome Foundation
This pilot study will indicate the development of protocol and strategies for identifying and diagnosing retinoblastoma syndrome so that a large future study of this condition can be conducted within the Kaiser Permanente setting.

PATIENT SAFETY
Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Centers
Site Principal Investigator: Steve Block, MD
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The CISA center is a consortium-based Kaiser Permanente project with centers at Stanford University and Vanderbilt University. The goal of these centers is to improve understanding of clinically significant adverse events following immunization, through clinical assessments and specialized laboratory investigations. Genetic or other factors that predispose to adverse events will be determined.

RENAI
Towards the Optimal Timing of Initiation of Dialysis: An Evidence-Based Approach
Site Principal Investigator: Alan S. Go, MD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This project seeks to determine demographics, clinical and laboratory factors associated with patient outcomes among patients with end-stage chronic renal insufficiency.

The Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) Study
Principal Investigator: Alan S. Go, MD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This is a multi-center prospective cohort study of adults with varying severity of chronic kidney disease that seeks to identify predictors of rapid progression of kidney dysfunction and to understand the risks and mechanisms that contribute to the success of chronic kidney disease.

WOMEN'S HEALTH
Burden of Illness Associated with Premenopausal Syndrome
Site Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: Lilly and Company
This study investigates the impact of premenopausal symptoms on functional status, productivity and health care utilization, and evaluates the economic burden of illness associated with the spectrum of premenopausal women.

Epidemiology of Physical Activity and Ovarian Function
Site Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This study examines the influence of physical activity on characteristics of the menstrual cycle, reproductive hormonal patterns, and hormone-related symptoms using three different data sets.

Influence of Physical Activity on Body Composition and Resting Energy Expenditure During the Menopause Transition
Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: American Heart Association
This study examines whether physical activity can prevent or attenuate the change in body composition and resting metabolic rate that occur in midlife women as a result of aging and/or menopause change.

Reproductive Risk Factors for Pelvic Organ Prolapse
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Der Eeden, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Child Health and Development
This study gathers epidemiological information on 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 seeks to determine if sleep is an expression of the collaboration on the "Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN)."

Specialized Center of Research (SCORE) Biostatistics Core: Reproductive/Hormonal Risk Factors II
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Der Eeden, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
The SCORE Biostatistics Core provides biometric and analytic support to investigators at the University of California, San Francisco, and Division of Research. The core includes the SWAN project.

Speciallyized Center of Research (SCORE) Urinary Incontinence: Reproductive/Hormonal Risk Factors II
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Der Eeden, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This project follows up an existing cohort of women who took part in the Reproductive Risks of Incontinence in Kaiser (RRIO) study, determining the incidence, and prevalence of urinary incontinence (UI), and determining which factors contribute to the progression of UI.

Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN)
Site Principal Investigator: Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Funding: National Institute on Aging
This multicenter study follows a large, multicenter sample of premenopausal women through the menopausal transition investigating the influence of biological and social/cultural factors on age at menopause, symptoms of menopause, and change in disease risk factor status.

University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)-Kaiser Permanente Women's Health Interdisciplinary Scholarship Site Principal Investigator: Joseph S. Selby, MD, MPH
Funding: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
This collaborative training with UCSF for "junior faculty" researcher scientists who focus on women's health research funds one trainee per year at the Division of Research.

Urinary Incontinence: Reproductive and Hormonal Risk Factors II
Site Principal Investigator: Stephen K. Van Der Eeden, PhD
Funding: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
This study evaluates reproductive risk factors including length of labor and delivery (due to prolonged labor, hyperactivity, and use of inosine). It also tests for urinary incontinence (UPN) later in life.

Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Clinical Center Site Principal Investigator: Beate J. Cahn, DVFH
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
This clinical trial assesses the effect of hormone replacement therapy, dietary modification, calcium, and vitamin D supplementation on coronary heart disease, breast and colorectal cancer, osteoporosis fractures, and total mortality. The observational study evaluates risk factors and biomarkers for these and other important diseases within for women in postmenopausal years and provides information complementary to that obtained from the clinical trial.

Women's Health Initiative - Breast Cancer Disease Site Principal Investigator: Beate J. Cahn, DVFH
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This project tests the hypothesis that adoption of a low-fat dietary pattern is associated with reduced risk of postmenopausal breast cancer. This study explores the hypothesis that calcium/vitamin D supplementation is associated with reduced risk of breast cancer. This study studies the relationship of estrogen replacement therapy or combined estrogen/progestin therapy is associated with increased risk of these cases.

Women's Health Initiative - Memory Study (WHIMS) Site Principal Investigator: Beate J. Cahn, DVFH
Funding: National Cancer Institute
This study examines the assessment of hormone replacement therapy on progression to Alzheimer's disease.


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
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.