



DIVISION *of* RESEARCH

VISION

2006 REPORT



THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH 2000 Broadway, Oakland, California 94612



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.

ON THE COVER: A lamppost outside of DOR's 2000 Broadway Location, in Oakland, California. Construction was completed in February of 2002.



C O N T E N T S

LAKE MERRIT: a large tidal lagoon that lies just east of downtown Oakland, California and is surrounded by parkland and city neighborhoods. A popular walking and jogging path runs along its perimeter.



Jonathan Parker painting hanging on the walls of DOR



The Tribune Tower, Oakland, California



Snow Park, Oakland California

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City Center, Oakland California



letter from the

DIRECTOR

I AM PLEASED to present the 2006 Research Activities Report of Kaiser Permanente Northern California’s Division of Research (DOR). Its primary purpose is to familiarize you with the DOR, its 42 research scientists, their achievements, and the more than 250 projects they currently have underway.



Joe V. Selby MD, MPH has led the Division of Research as its Director since 1998.

The DOR conducts research primarily among the 3.4 million Kaiser Permanente members of Northern California using interviews, computer-stored data, medical records, and clinical examinations. 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, drug safety, studies of the impact of changing health care policy and practice, health and health care disparities and genetic influences on health and illness. DOR researchers contributed more than 200 scientific articles to the medical and public health literature in 2006 and have published well over 2000 articles during DOR’s 45 year history. In addition, DOR researchers frequently share research

findings with physicians of The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG), with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan leadership, and with the public through presentations and articles in the lay press.

A unique feature of many DOR studies is their large size and high level of accuracy and detail that are the result of Kaiser Permanente’s foresight over the years in building and maintaining high quality clinical databases. 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, ensuring that risks to study participants, to their safety or their privacy, are minimized and that the potential benefits of each study always outweigh any possible risks.

Increasingly, our studies include collaborations with clinicians and operations staff from elsewhere in TPMG or the larger Kaiser Permanente community. These partnerships are another noteworthy feature of research at DOR, creating opportunities to translate research findings into practice much more quickly than in other settings.

A growing number of our studies feature collaboration with researchers from other regions of Kaiser Permanente, and with researchers from other health plan-based centers

affiliated with the HMO Research Network. Collaborations with academic colleagues from across the country, and especially from academic centers in the Bay Area, provide opportunities to join our population research skills with those of other disciplines. Cutting edge research today frequently requires the joint efforts of two or more individuals working as members of inter-disciplinary research teams. We appreciate all of these collaborations and welcome inquiries from scientists who may be interested in working with us.

Finally, a word of recognition and thanks to our funders. More than 90% of the DOR’s \$50 million annual budget comes from competitive awards, primarily from the NIH, from other federal sources including the CDC, AHRQ and the FDA; from private foundations, from industry sponsors, and from internal Kaiser Permanente sources, including the Northern California Community Benefit Program and the Garfield Memorial Fund.

Core funding continues to come from our parent organization, The Permanente Medical Group.

We salute all of our collaborators, both those from within our organization and those from other institutions. We thank you for your collegiality and hard work. We look forward to continuing our work with you for the improvement of the health of Kaiser Permanente members, our local communities, and the broader world community.

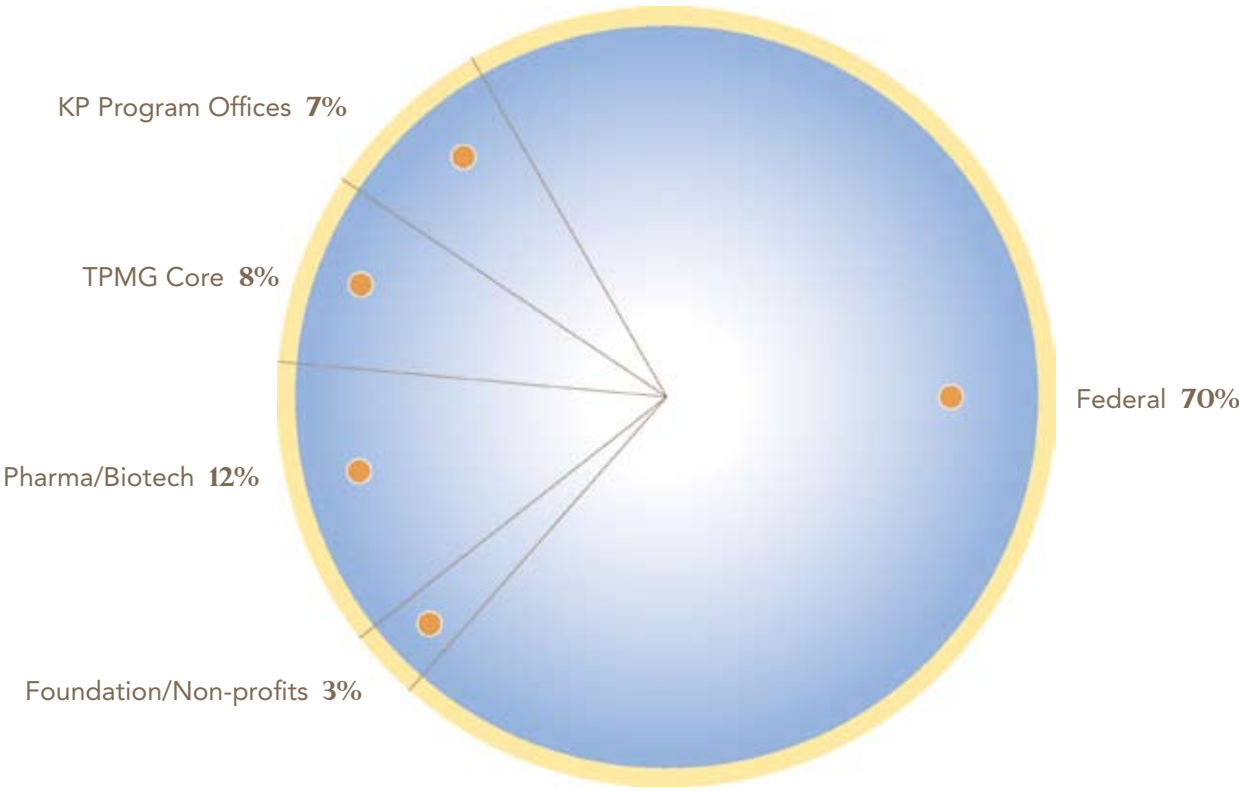
ADMINISTRATION AND FISCAL OVERVIEW

THE ADMINISTRATION Department at the Division of Research (DOR) includes grants and contracts, fiscal operations, human resources, research operations, public affairs, and research compliance (IRB). 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 include a Data Entry Department, a Medical Records Analyst 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.

Total extramural **funding** for calendar year **2006** for the projects stood at **\$49,293,843**



The Information Technology Department maintains 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, performs 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 2006 there were over 250 funded studies with extramural support totaling \$49,293,843. The pie chart above illustrates the distribution of all funding at the Division of Research during calendar year 2006.

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.

More than 50% of current projects represent multi-center studies in which data are collected within Kaiser Permanente and merged with those from at least one other site, in which DOR investigators collaborate with researchers based elsewhere. In addition, DOR maintains collaborations with numerous academic institutions across the country and internationally.

Annette E. Aalborg, DrPH

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: DrPH (Behavioral Science, Public Health) and MPH (Maternal and Child Health), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Child and adolescent development; pediatric obesity prevention; adolescent depression prevention; school health; reproductive health; chronic disease health promotion; violence prevention; evaluation research.

Academic Affiliation: Instructor, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Lynn M. Ackerson, PhD

Biostatistician, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Biometrics), University of Colorado, Denver, CO; MS (Biomedical Engineering), Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.

Research Interests: Biostatistics; longitudinal data analysis; design and analysis of clinical trials.

Academic Affiliation: Lecturer, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Mark Alexander, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Cardiovascular epidemiology; community fitness initiatives.

Mary Anne Armstrong, MA

Co-Associate Director for Health Care Effectiveness (Acting) (2004), Biostatistician and Research Scientist, and Director, Biostatistical Consulting Unit, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MA (Statistics), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Perinatal health services research; women's health; substance abuse; biostatistics.

Maryam M. Asgari MD, MPH

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California. Dermatologist, The Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: Yale University School of Medicine (MD), University of Washington School of Public Health (MPH).

Research Interests: Skin cancer risk factors, treatment and prevention.

Academic Affiliations: UCSF Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology.

Andrew L. Avins, MD, MPH

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), University of California, Irvine, CA; Internship: Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco; Residency: Internal Medicine, Veterans Administration Hospital/Georgetown University, Washington, DC; MPH (Epidemiology), Harvard University, Boston, MA. Fellowship: General Internal Medicine/ Clinical Epidemiology, University of California, San Francisco & San Francisco General Hospital.

Research Interests: Preventive medicine; complementary & alternative medicine; health care effectiveness; health services research; clinical trials, musculoskeletal diseases.

Academic Affiliations: Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA; Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Bette J. Caan, DrPH

Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: DrPH (Nutrition) and MPH (Epidemiology), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Nutritional epidemiology; dietary measurement and assessment; dietary intervention methods; nutritional risk factors for cancer and obesity; childhood obesity and the health effects of caffeine; women's health.

Douglas A. Corley, MD, MPH, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research; Attending Gastroenterologist, The Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Residency (Internal Medicine), Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Harvard University; Gastroenterology/Hepatology

Fellowship, University of California, San Francisco, CA; MPH and PhD (Epidemiology), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Gastroenterology; medicine; epidemiology.

Academic Affiliations: Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Lisa A. Croen, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Epidemiology of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders; environmental exposures and gene/ environment interactions.

Gerald N. DeLorenze, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology) and MS (Biostatistics), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: HIV/AIDS epidemiology; HIV/AIDS patient safety; reproductive epidemiology; infectious etiology of chronic disease; cancer epidemiology; biostatistical methods.

Gabriel J. Escobar, MD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Staff Pediatrician, The Permanente Medical Group, Director, Division of Research Perinatal Research Unit, and Director of Systems Research Initiative, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), Yale University, New Haven, CT; Residency (Pediatrics), University of California, San Francisco, CA; Health Services Research, Robert Wood Johnson Scholar, Stanford University, CA.

Research Interests: Perinatal health services research; informatics and electronic decision support; guideline development; critical care research; severity of illness scoring; outcome of high risk newborns; patient safety; human error; assessment of prenatal care.

Assiamira Ferrara, MD, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California. Education: MD (Medicine), Residency (Internal Medicine) and Fellowship (Diabetologia), Universita' degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italy; PhD (Pathophysiology of Vascular Disease), Universita' degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italy and University of California, San Diego, CA.

Research Interests: Epidemiology of diabetes; cardiovascular disease; obesity; hormones; gestational diabetes; menopause, early determinants of adult diseases.

Academic Affiliations: Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Washington, WA.

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Bruce Fireman, MA

Biostatistician and Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MA (Sociology), Harvard University, Boston, MA.

Research Interests: Cost and outcomes of medical care; effectiveness and costs of chronic care and disease management programs, variations in the delivery and use of health services; vaccine efficacy and safety; patient participation in medical decisions.

Alan S. Go, MD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Senior Physician, The Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California, Oakland, CA.

Education: MD (Medicine), University of California, San Francisco, CA; Residency (Internal Medicine) and Fellowship (Clinical Research), University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Research Interests: Cardiovascular health service research and clinical epidemiology; atrial fibrillation and stoke prevention; chronic renal insufficiency and cardiovascular complications; genetic factors influencing risk of cardiovascular disease; management and outcomes of coronary disease and heart failure; electrocardiographic finding and outcomes in heart disease; race/ethnic variation in treatment and outcomes in cardiovascular disease.

Academic Affiliations: Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco, CA; Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA; Volunteer Clinical Staff Preceptor, General Internal Medicine Section, San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center, San Francisco, CA.

Nancy P. Gordon, ScD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: ScD (Behavioral Sciences), Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA; MA (Counseling and Psychology), University of California, San Diego, CA.

Research Interests: Evaluation of health services, patient and provider education interventions to improve chronic disease management and/or risk factor reduction; member health surveys, including data about prevalence of chronic diseases and health risk factors; alternative therapy use among Kaiser Permanente members and primary care clinicians.

Elisabeth P. Gruskin, DrPH

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: DrPH (Biostatistics/Community Health Science) and MPH (Behavioral Science), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Lesbian, gay, bisexual health research; sexuality research; substance use; Samoan health.

Erica P. Gunderson, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), MPH (Public Health Nutrition), and MS (Nutritional Sciences), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Epidemiology of obesity in young women; persistent effects of pregnancy on women’s health including adverse effects on risk factors for cardiovascular disease and development of Type 2 diabetes; gestational gain and behavioral factors related to postpartum weight retention; lactation and postpartum behaviors associated with development of Type 2 diabetes after pregnancy complicated by gestational diabetes; perinatal nutrition, obesity and pregnancy outcomes.

Academic Affiliations: Scholar, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) Program, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Laurel A. Habel, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Research Interests: Breast cancer etiology and progression with a focus on ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS); etiology and progression of precursor lesions for cancer; intermediate markers of cancer risk; pharmaceuticals and cancer risk; attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); stimulant use in children.

Academic Affiliations: Lecturer, Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA.

Lisa J. Herrinton, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), University of Washington, Seattle, WA; MS (Environmental Health Science), Harvard University, Boston, MA.

Research Interests: Cancer epidemiology; etiologic factors in hematologic malignancies; cancer care effectiveness; epidemiologic methods.

Academic Affiliations: Lecturer, Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA.

John Hsu, MD, MBA, MSCE

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine) and Residency,



COLORFUL SCULPTURE at City Center, Oakland, California

(Internal Medicine), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Fellowship, (General Internal Medicine), Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; MBA (Health Care Finance and Management) and MSCE (Health Services Research), School of Medicine and the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Research Interests: Health services research; health care financing and technology; health care quality and efficiency; patient preferences and medical decision making; methods to implement and evaluate health system level programs.

Academic Affiliations: Lecturer, Department of Epidemiology and

Biostatistics, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

Enid M. Hunkeler, MA

Co-Associate Director, Health Care Effectiveness (Acting) (2004) and Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California; Director, National Depression Initiative (Garfield Memorial Fund), Kaiser Permanente.

Education: MA, (Social Anthropology), Boston University, Boston, MA.

Research Interests: Health services and intervention research in mental health; depression; bipolar disorder; suicide; domestic violence; new models of care; internet-based intervention;

psychopharmacology; elderly; children and adolescents; behavioral health; and hypertension.

Carlos Iribarren, MD, MSc, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; PhD (Preventive Medicine), University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA; MSc (Public Health), University of Leeds, England.

Research Interests: Cardiovascular epidemiology; genetic determinants of

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coronary heart disease; vascular calcification; psychosocial factors in coronary disease; smoking-related diseases; inflammation; endothelial function; congestive heart failure.

Academic Affiliations: Assistant Adjunct Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Andrew J. Karter, PhD

Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology) and MA (Ecology), University of California, Davis, CA.

Research Interests: Epidemiology of diabetes and its complications; race/ethnic, social class and socioeconomic disparities in health; pharmacoepidemiology; health services and epidemiologic methods.

Academic Affiliations: Affiliate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health & Community Health, University of Washington; Faculty member, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health and Society Scholars Program.

Lawrence H. Kushi, ScD

Associate Director for Etiology and Prevention Research and Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: ScD (Nutrition), Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA.

Research Interests: Nutritional epidemiology; diet and nutrition in the etiology of coronary artery disease; diet and nutrition in the etiology and progression of breast and other cancers.

Theodore R. Levin, MD

Research Scientist, Division of Research and Staff Physician (Gastroenterology) and the Regional Director of Colorectal Cancer Screening, The Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), Emory University, Atlanta, GA; Residency (Internal Medicine) and Fellowship (Gastroenterology), University of California, San Francisco, CA; MS (Physiology), Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

Research Interests: Health services and outcomes research related to colorectal cancer screening in average risk populations and in patients with a positive family history of colorectal cancer; outcomes research related to gastroesophageal reflux disease and dyspepsia.

Academic Affiliations: Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

De-Kun Li, MD, MPH, PhD

Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine) and MPH (Occupational Epidemiology), Shanghai Medical University, Shanghai, China; PhD (Epidemiology), Postdoctoral (Environmental and Molecular Epidemiology), University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Research Interests: Reproductive, prenatal, and pediatric epidemiology; childhood diseases including cancer and neurological disorders; genetics and gene-environment interaction.

Joan C. Lo, MD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, Residency (Internal Medicine) Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, Fellowship (Endocrinology) University of California, San Francisco, CA, MS (Biochemistry), University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Research Interests: Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), insulin resistance and body composition, syndromes of altered fat distribution, bone metabolism in HIV infection, endocrinopathies of chronic renal insufficiency.

Academic Affiliations: Assistant Professor, Division of Endocrinology, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA (San Francisco General Hospital); Scholar, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Program, UCSF Women's Health Clinical Research Center, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

M. Michele Manos, PhD, MPH, DVM

Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Microbiology), SUNY-Stony Brook/Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, NY; MPH (Epidemiology), Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD; DVM (Livestock & Wildlife Medicine), University of California, Davis, CA.

Research Interests: Etiology and prevention of cervical cancer; utility of human papillomavirus; etiology and prevention of cervical cancer; utility of human papillomavirus testing, and other new technologies to improve Pap



JONATHAN PARKER painting hanging on the walls of DOR

screening; molecular epidemiology of cancers; women's reproductive health in minority populations; chronic liver disease.

Academic Affiliations: Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Charles P. Quesenberry, Jr., PhD

Biostatistician and Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Biostatistics), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Biostatistical methods; survival analysis; cost of disease.

Catherine Schaefer, PhD

Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), MS (Epidemiology), University of California, Berkeley, CA; Postdoctoral (Psychiatric Epidemiology), Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Research Interests: Epidemiology of psychiatric and neurologic disorders; early antecedents of adult chronic disease; genetic epidemiology.

Joe V. Selby, MD, MPH

Director and Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), Northwestern University, Chicago, IL; Residency (Family Medicine), Contra Costa County Hospital, Martinez, CA; MPH (Epidemiology) and Residency (Preventive Medicine), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

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PARAMOUNT THEATER MARQUEE Oakland, California

Research Interests: Population management of diabetes and cardiovascular disease; evaluation of cancer screening tests; primary care enhancement; impact of cost-sharing.

Academic Affiliations: Lecturer, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, CA; Consulting Professor, Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA.

Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH
Associate Director for Clinical Research and Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA; Residency (Internal Medicine), Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Santa Clara, CA; MPH (Epidemiology), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Cardiovascular disease; women’s health, including the relationship of oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy to cardiovascular disease; physical fitness and cardiovascular risk; obesity; health effects of marijuana use.

Academic Affiliations: Consultant, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Michael J. Silverberg, MPH, PhD
Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; MPH (Epidemiology), University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Research Interests: Race/ethnicity and progression of HIV/AIDS; Complications of highly-active antiretroviral therapy (HAART); Older age and HAART response and tolerability; HAART use, cancer incidence and progression; Dyslipidemia, cardiovascular outcomes and HIV/AIDS; HIV.

Carol P. Somkin, PhD
Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Sociology), Columbia University, New York, NY.

Research Interests: Breast cancer and cancer screening; clinical trials; race/ethnic, social class and socioeconomic disparities in health; multiethnic interventions; cross cultural communication; health services research.

Academic Affiliations: Faculty member, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Health and Society Scholars Program.

Barbara Sternfeld, PhD
Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), University

of California, Berkeley, CA; (Exercise Physiology), California State University, Hayward, CA; (Sociology), University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Research Interests: Physical activity epidemiology; exercise and women’s health; menopause; physical activity and cancer; body composition; physical activity; physical functioning and aging; physical activity interventions; health promotion.

Academic Affiliations: Lecturer, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Joe Terdiman, MD, PhD
Administrative Director for Information Technology and Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: MD (Medicine), New York University, New York, NY; PhD (Physiology and Bioengineering), University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago, IL.

Research Interests: Medical informatics; technology assessment; cardiovascular epidemiology; cardiovascular and visual physiology.

Stephen K. Van Den Eeden, PhD
Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Epidemiology), University of Washington, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Seattle, WA; MS (Public Health and Occupational Health Nursing), University of Illinois, Chicago, IL.

Research Interests: Epidemiology of benign genitourinary conditions, prostate and other cancers; environmental and occupational diseases; Parkinson’s disease; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Restless Legs Syndrome; neuroepidemiology.

Academic Affiliations: Lecturer, Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA.

Constance M. Weisner, DrPH, MSW
Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: DrPH (Public Health), University of California, Berkeley, CA; MSW (Social Work), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Research Interests: Drug and alcohol epidemiology; treatment outcomes and cost-effectiveness; access and utilization of behavioral health care.

Academic Affiliations: Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

Rachel Whitmer, PhD
Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California.

Education: PhD (Aging/ Human Development), University of California, Davis, CA. Postdoctoral (Epidemiology), University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Research Interests: Dementia epidemiology; glycemic control and cognitive functioning; hormonal, inflammatory, and vascular predictors of cognitive decline and dementia, modifiable risk factors of Alzheimer’s Disease. Diabetes, glycemic control and risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer’s disease, Obesity, Adipocytokines and Dementia, Midlife Predictors.

Academic Affiliations: Scholar, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) Program, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco, CA.

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.

James Allison, MD, FACP, a retired Permanente Medical Group gastroenterologist, and currently a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. In May 2004, Dr. Allison received a Distinguished Clinician Award from the American Gastroenterological Association. Dr. Allison is interested in a broad spectrum of gastroenterologic diseases, with a primary focus on screening for colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease.

Lisa Barcellos, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, University of California at Berkeley, and holds an additional faculty research appointment in the Department of Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Barcellos's primary research interests are genetic epidemiology, immunology, and statistical analysis of complex genetic diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis.

Morris F. Collen, MD, is a DOR Director Emeritus and currently retired from medical practice. Dr. Collen maintains an active role as a consultant to both DOR and Kaiser Permanente.

Mark Eisner, MD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Eisner's primary research interests include epidemiologic research in adult asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Bruce Ettinger, MD, is a retired Permanente Medical Group endocrinologist and currently a Clinical Professor of Medicine and Radiology at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Ettinger's research interests include osteoporosis, hormones, menopause, pharmacoepidemiology, and kidney stones and calcium metabolism.

Harold J. Farber, MD, is a Permanente Medical Group pediatric pulmonologist and hospitalist at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Vallejo, California, and part of the clinical faculty and an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at Touro University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Vallejo, California. Dr. Farber specializes in pediatric asthma research.

Gary Friedman, MD, MS, is a DOR Director Emeritus and a Consulting Professor at the Department of Health Research and Policy at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California. Dr. Friedman's research interests include the epidemiology of cancer, cardiovascular disease, gallbladder disease, the effects of alcohol, smoking, medicinal drugs, and the efficacy of screening tests.

David Gritz, MD, MPH, is an Adjunct Research Scientist and a Permanente Medical Group ophthalmologist at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Oakland, California. Dr. Gritz is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Francis I. Proctor Foundation, Department of Ophthalmology, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Gritz's research interests include uveitis, keratitis, and ophthalmology antibacterial therapies.

Mary N. Haan, MPH, DrPH, is an Adjunct Research Scientist and an Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Dr. Haan's primary research interests are on the aging populations.

William Hargreaves, PhD, is a Professor of Medical Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Hargreaves' research interests include schizophrenia and depression.

Robert A. Hiatt, MD, PhD, is a Senior Scientist for the national Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program in Oakland, the Director of Population Science and Deputy Director of the UCSF

Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition, he is Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF and a past President, American Society for Preventive Oncology. His primary research interests are cancer epidemiology and studies of cancer screening both in terms of efficacy and effectiveness in diverse community settings. In addition, Dr. Hiatt has taken a leadership role in creating a national agenda for cancer prevention and control research initiating programs in large-scale studies of gene-environment interactions in epidemiology, centers for the study of population health and health disparities, and studies of the quality of cancer care.

S. Claiborne Johnston, MD, MPH, PhD, is an Associate Professor in Neurology and Epidemiology in Residence and the Director of the University of California, San Francisco, Stroke Service. Dr. Johnson's research interests include transient ischemic attack evaluation and treatment, cerebral aneurysm and subarachnoid hemorrhage treatment, cognitive dysfunction and stroke risk factors, infection and stroke risk, and optimizing the prevention of stroke.

Jennifer Kelsey, PhD, is Professor of Health Research and Policy, Division of Epidemiology, Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Kelsey's primary research interests are epidemiology, hip fracture, osteoporosis, and geriatrics.

Arthur L. Klatsky, MD, is a retired Permanente Medical Group cardiologist who maintains a Senior Consultant relationship with Cardiology at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Oakland. Dr. Klatsky was also a 2004 recipient of the Morris F. Collen Permanente Medical Group Research Award. His primary research interests include alcohol and health, coffee and health, cardiovascular risk and disease in Asian American ethnic groups, and cardiovascular disease risk factors.

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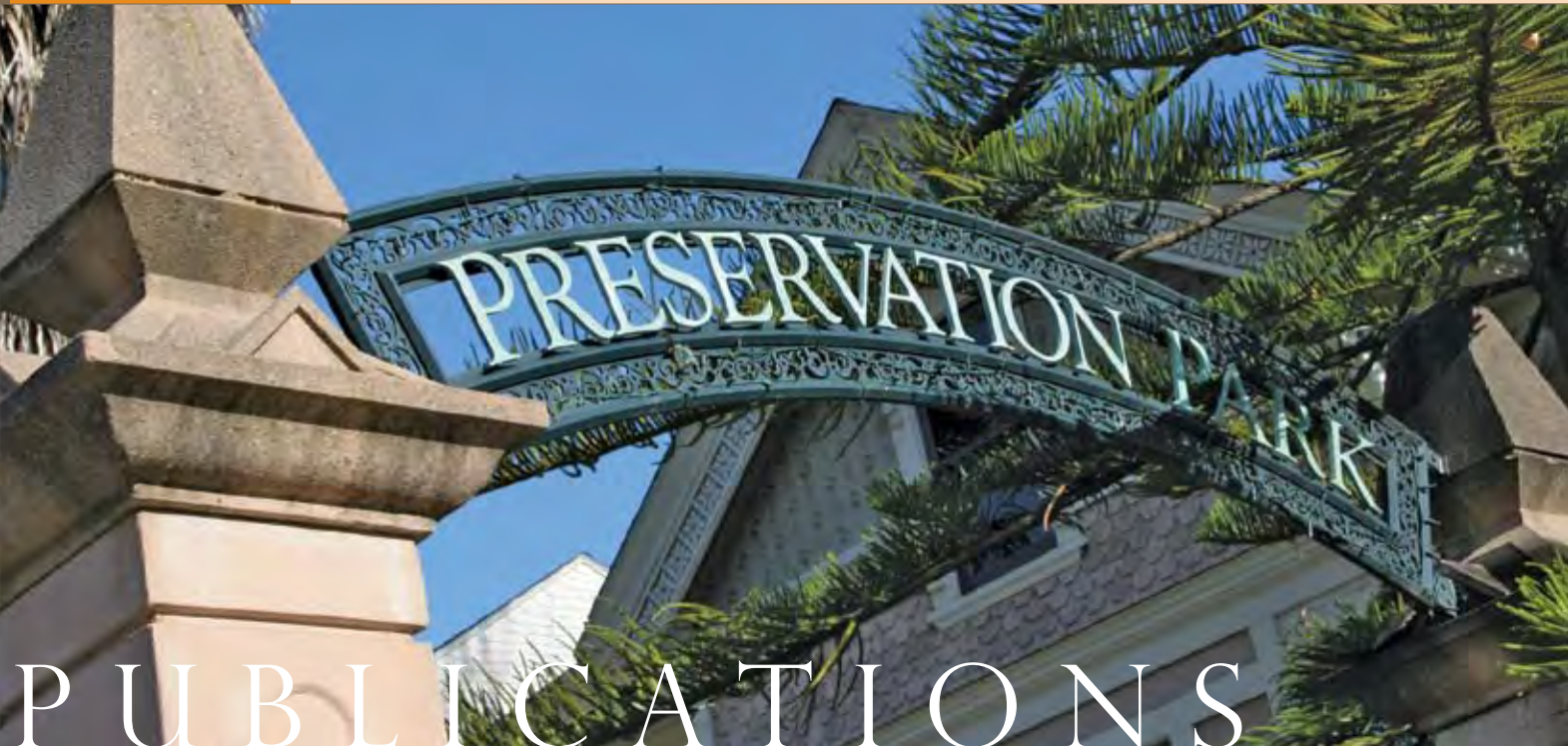
Center. Visiting Scholar, University of Chile School of Public Health, Santiago, Chile as well as Director, University of California, San Francisco, Center for Vulnerable Populations. Dr. Schillinger has focused his research on healthcare for vulnerable populations, including the impact of managed care, improving systems of care for publicly-insured and uninsured patients, and health communication. His current work has focused on literacy, health communication, and chronic disease prevention and management.

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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 2006 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

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