

Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research & Education





ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Director	1
Our Team	2
Associate Directors	4
Steering Committee	5
New Center Members in 2024	6
COERE Domains	
Training	g
Dissemination & Implementation	12
Enrichment	14
Health System Investigators and Partners (HSIP)	20

Director's Message



2024 proved to be another tremendous year for the COERE. In terms of community, we continue to develop the atmosphere of the Boshell 8 neighborhood. This year we welcomed Drs. Timiya Nolan and Nikki Henderson and their teams to the floor. The SDOH Core invested in a geo-mapping computer that is available for university use at-large in BDB 863. Amber Ganoe orchestrated a vibrant mural in the lobby (page 3) that symbolizes our shared commitment to improving the health and healthcare of all persons living in Alabama and across the Deep South. Many rejoiced when a Chick-fil-A style ice machine was installed in November.

We also welcomed Richard Kennedy and Gabriel Tajeu to our Associate Directors. Nick Odom joined our T32 Core Faculty. Petra Sprik was appointed to our outstanding cadre of predoctoral trainees, while Jordi Garcia-Diaz, Anais Mahone, and Nicole Rademacher swiftly made themselves at home in the T32 postdoc office. We bid farewell to Bayley Jones and Kelsey Montgomery who returned to clinical training, Jackie Wall who began a faculty position at VCU, and Reed Bratches who has joined the faculty in the UAB School of Nursing.

Friday Fellows continues its long history of success, with many thanks to Co-Director Emily Levitan and Geri Davis for their leadership. Early-career faculty writing NIH and other external career development awards continue to attribute a large part of their success to GRIT and Julie Locher's steadfast coaching and mentorship. Bertha Hidalgo, Frank Puga and Naomi Duffort hosted another wonderful DRIVEN Academy and received glowing praise for DRIVEN from Dr. Wonder Drake, an external keynote speaker. The Office of Research Synthesis held its second annual short course in June with over one dozen participants and a full waitlist. Led by COERE Associate Director Matt Gravett, GEARs completed its first full calendar year and continues to bring together Boshell neighbors from across the career arc to discuss the latest science and the methods that make it happen.

In terms of new growth, we are thrilled to share that Heersink School of Medicine has committed funds to support at least 4 HSOM CARES awards annually for the next five years, as a legacy program to the Doris Duke Foundation sponsored "*CARES at UAB*". We are equally excited to have received an AHRQ R13 to support the 2025 Methods Symposium, led by COERE Deputy Director Madeline Gibson as PI. The grant will make travel awards available for the first time in the history of the symposium. Catalyzed by the DIISC and in collaboration with other implementation science leaders on campus, Larry and Ria Hearld are spearheading the development of the first UAB certificate in dissemination and implementation science – scheduled to launch Fall 2025. As our HSF-GEF grant to support Learning Health System efforts came to an end, we've re-branded our health system research and quality improvement arm as 'Health System Investigators and Partners (HSIP)' led by COERE Co-Director Allyson Hall and Reid Eagleson.

For many of us, it feels like the current iteration of the COERE has really come into its own – building upon a 25 year foundation! So many of our staff, Center members, advisors, and program participants continue to give and answer the call, week after week and month after month. We are truly grateful – programs run on people and we get to work with an amazing cadre of people as leaders of the COERE. Our Internal Advisory Committee had glowing remarks when they convened this fall. One advisor commented, "With regard to institutional reach, scope, and magnitude of your projects and activities, the Center is a very impressive example of the true success of the (UWIRC) program. Thanks for your overall excellence and your collective service to the UAB community."

Everyone knows it takes a village. I feel privileged to work alongside each one of you!

Onwards! Mugs

Our Team



Michael Mugavero, MD, MHSc Director



Emily Levitan, ScD Co-Director



Allyson Hall, PhD Co-Director



Madeline Gibson, MPH Deputy Director



Briana Bass, MBA Director of Finance



Geri Davis AHRQ T32, Center Membership, GEARS



Naomi Duffort, MSW Professional Development Programs



Reid Eagleson, MS, MEng, LSSGB Health-Systems Research



Amber Ganoe, MPA Communications, Events, Facilities

Our Team



Larry Hearld, PhD Director, DIISC program



Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH Director, DRIVEN program



Julie Locher Director GRIT program



Kathryn Kaiser, PhD Director Office of Research Synthesis



The COERE's stunning new mural has been installed in the lobby of BDB 8! A huge thank you to our friends at Mammoth Murals for their incredible work they've truly transformed our space into something we're proud of.

Stop by and see it in person!

Associate Directors



Greer Burkholder, MD, MSPH Associate Professor, Infectious Diseases



Ronnie "Matt" Gravett, MD GEARs Director Assistant Professor, Infectious Diseases



Shea Polancich, PhD, RN Professor, Nursing Family, Community & Health Systems



Crystal Chapman-Lambert, PhD, CRNP, NP-C, FNP-BC, ACRN Associate Professor, Nursing Family, Community & Health Systems



Richard E. Kennedy, MD, PhD Professor, Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

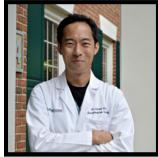


Gabriel Tajeu, DrPH Associate Professor, General Internal Medicine & Population Science

Steering Committee



Monica Aswani, DrPH Assistant Professor, Health Services Administration



Daniel Chu, MD Professor, Division Director of Surgery - General Surgery Gastrointestinal Section



Patricia Drentea, PhD Professor, Sociology



Kristine "Ria" Hearld, PhD Professor and Director, Health Services Administration



Anand Iyer, MD, MSPH Associate Professor, Pulmonary, Allergy, & Critical Care Medicine



Kierstin Kennedy, MD Associate Professor GIM - Hospitalist Service



Tapan Mehta, PhD Professor, Family & Community Medicine



Patricia Patrician, PhD, RN, FAAN Professor, Nursing Family, Community & Health Systems



J. Nicholas Odom, PhD, RN, ACHPN, FPCN, FAAN Associate Professor, Nursing Acute, Chronic & Continuing Care



Rodney Tucker, MD, MMM, FAAHPM Professor, Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

New Center Members in 2024

- Abdulaziz Ahmed, PhD Associate Professor, Health Service Administration
- Nicole Armstrong, PhD Assistant Professor, Epidemiology
- Alexander Arynchyn, MD Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine
- Lori Bateman, PhD Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine
- Nicole Bentley, MD Associate Professor, Neurosurgery
- Smita Bhatia, MD Distinguished Professor, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- Reed Bratches, PhD Assistant Professor, Nursing Acute, Chronic & Continuing Care
- Dave Dhruva, MD Postdoctoral Fellow, OB/GYN Gyn Oncology
- Carlos Cardenas, PhD Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology
- Paula Chandler-Laney, PhD Associate Professor, Nutrition Sciences
- Mamie Coats, PhD Associate Professor, Biomedical & Health Sciences MS Program
- Kaylee Crockett, PhD Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine
- Karen Cropsey, PhD Professor, Psychiatry Behavioral Neurobiology
- Tracey Dick, PhD, MS Assistant Professor, Nursing Acute, Chronic & Continuing Care
- Jamie Gajos, MD Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine
- Benjamin Galatzan, PhD Assistant Professor, Nursing Family, Community & Health Systems
- Shena Gazaway, PhD Assistant Professor, Nursing Family, Community & Health Systems
- Samuel Gentle, MD Clinical Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neonatology
- Karin Hardiman, MD Professor, Surgery General Surgery Gastrointestinal Section
- Ria Hearld, PhD Professor, Health Services Administration
- Marla Hertz, PhD Associate Professor, UAB Libraries
- Yulia Khodneva, PhD Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine
- Amber Kinsey, PhD Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine
- Wendy Landier, PhD Professor, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- Audrey Lloyd, MD Assistant Professor, Infectious Diseases
- Wei Lyu, PhD Assistant Professor, Health Services Administration
- Demario Overstreet, PhD Assistant Professor, General Surgery Gastrointestinal Section
- Brandi Pernell, MD Assistant Professor, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- Frank Puga, PhD Assistant Professor, Nursing Acute, Chronic & Continuing Care
- Tina Kempin Reuter, PhD Professor, Government

New Center Members in 2024

- Molly Richardson, PhD Assistant Professor, Health Policy & Organization
- Robert Richter, MD Associate Professor, Pediatric Critical Care
- James Rimmer, PhD Professor, School of Health Professions Research Collaborative
- Brandon Rocque, MD Associate Professor, Neurosurg-Computer Assisted
- Shanequa Roscoe, MS Instructor, Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- J. Bart Rose, MD Associate Professor, General Surgery Oncology Section
- Richard (Drew) Sayer, PhD Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine
- Michael Seifert, MD Professor, Pediatric Nephrology
- Rachel Sinkey, MD Associate Professor, OB/GYN Maternal & Fetal Medicine
- Kimberly Smith, PhD Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine
- Anna Sorace, PhD Associate Professor, Radiology
- Chloe Taub, PhD Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine
- Taylor Taylor (Buchanan) Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine
- Mohanraj Thirumalai, PhD Associate Professor, Preventive Medicine
- Colm Travers, MD Associate Professor, Pediatric Neonatology
- Rodney Tucker, MD Professor, Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Lynda Ugwu, PhD Assistant Professor, OB/GYN Maternal & Fetal Medicine
- Olivia Van Gerwen, MD Assistant Professor, Infectious Diseases
- Lauren Walter, MD Professor, Emergency Medicine
- Rachel Wells, RN, ASN, BSN, MSN Assistant Professor, Nursing Acute, Chronic & Continuing Care
- Jennifer Werthman, PhD Assistant Professor Nursing Family, Community & Health Systems
- Brooks Wingo, PhD Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy
- Rongbing Xie, Dr.PH, MPH Assistant Professor, Surgery Cardiovascular/Thoracic
- Haichang Xin, PhD Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine
- Haoyang Yan, PhD Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine

COERE Domains

TRAINING

The COERE education and training programs are anchored by an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) National Research Training Award (T32), continuously funded since 2002. Our research and training base includes mentors and trainees across UAB Schools including Business, Dentistry, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

DISSEMINATION & IMPLEMENTATION



The Dissemination, Implementation, and Improvement Science Core (DIISC) is here to help. We offer advice and consultation on D&I proposal aims, D&I frameworks, theories, and logic models, D&I methodological designs, D&I measures, D&I analytic strategies, quality improvement processes, community engagement strategies, and program evaluation strategies.



ENRICHMENT

The COERE provides a range of enrichment programs to meet the needs of outcomes research investigators spanning the career arc. Our programs include: GRIT, CARES at UAB, DRIVEN, GEARs, Annual Methods Symposium and the Office of Research Synthesis.



HEALTH SYSTEM INVESTIGATORS AND PARTNERS (HSIP)

In response to complex, clinical and operational challenges health systems must design, implement, evaluate, disseminate, and spread innovative approaches to improve quality of care and health outcomes. University researchers have a growing interest in using health care settings as their research 'labs.' Health System Investigators and Partners (HSIP) is dedicated to supporting research, quality improvement, and other activities that seek to improve the quality of health care at UAB Medicine and beyond.

TRAINING

Works-in-Progress Half Day Symposium May 17, 2024









HSR Training Program Core Faculty



Latesha Elopre, MD Associate Professor Infectious Diseases



Allyson Hall, PhD Professor Health Services Administration



Larry Hearld, PhD Professor Health Services Administration



Gabriela Oates, PhD Associate Professor Pediatric-Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine



J. Nicholas Odom, PhD Associate Professor Nursing Acute & Chronic & Continuing Care



Tina Kempin Reuter, PhD Associate Professor Political Science and Public Administration



Gabriel Tajeu, DrPH Associate Professor General Internal Medicine & Population Science

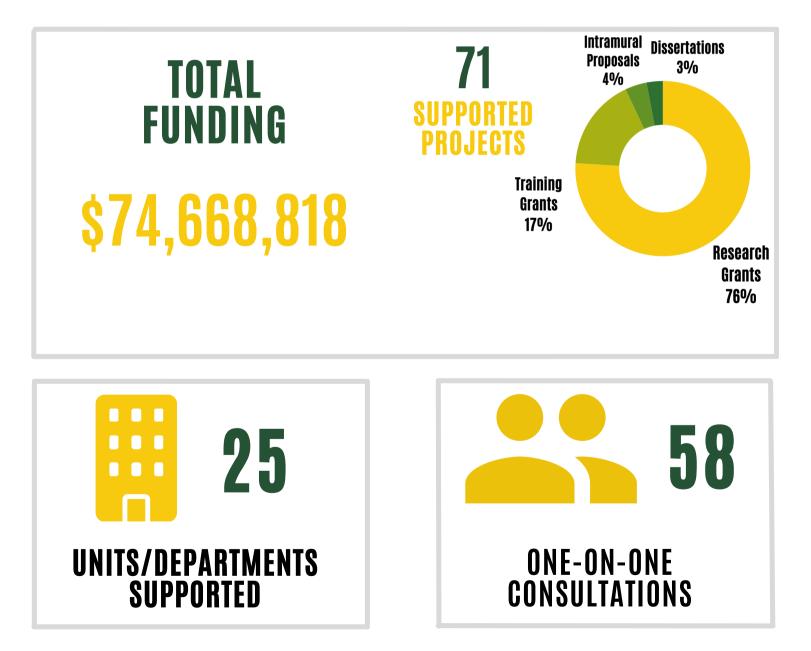
DISSEMINATION & IMPLEMENTATION

DIISC

Dissemination, Implementation, & Improvement Science Core



A subsidiary of the COERE, the Dissemination, Implementation, and Improvement Science Core (DIISC) supports investigators pursuing extramurally funded research projects that examine how to implement and disseminate evidence-based interventions. DIISC helps investigators develop and refine study aims, identify implementation science theories and frameworks, establish rigorous study designs, and determine appropriate outcomes for evaluation. It does so through formal and informal consultations with investigators, resource recommendations, and referrals to other campus resources.

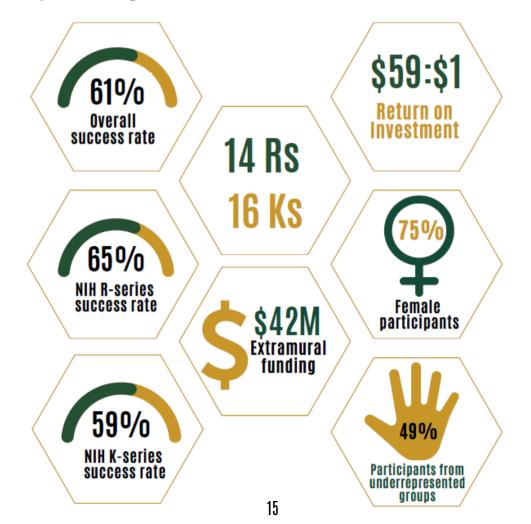


ENRICHMENT

GRIT

<u>Grant wRiting InTensive</u>

Since 2018, GRIT has offered scholars structured activities focused on specific steps in the extramural grant application process. The program began with one in-person cohort of 4 NIH Kawardees writing their first RO1 application. A cohort of R-series grant writers was then added. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the program pivoted to one-on-one virtual coaching for both K and R applicants. In 2023, GRIT returned to in-person cohorts of K and R applicants in the clinical and population health research space. Up until this time, GRIT was led by the COERE and cosponsored by CCTS, Department of Medicine, Heersink School of Medicine, and School of Health Professions. The 2023 and onward cohort curriculum addresses everything from biosketches and budgets to mentor selection and optimizing graphics. GRIT provides invaluable guidance, structure, accountability, and peer and one-on-one coaching to help investigators meet submission deadlines and craft exceedingly responsive resubmissions. Participants are led by an NIH-funded coach and meet weekly for approximately 6 months, followed by one-on-one coaching and review until the GRIT grant is submitted. Through a novel partnership with the UAB Office of Research (OoR), in 2024 a basic and translational science cohort of combined K and R applicants was added and led by the OoR. The enrollment and financial responsibilities also shifted to the OoR at this time. Here, we report on program participants and success metrics from program inception through CY23.









Gathering to Enrich and Advance Research

GEARs completed its first full calendar year and continues to bring together Boshell neighbors from across the career arc to discuss the latest science and the methods that make it happen. COERE Associate Director Dr. Ronnie "Matt" Gravett hosts a monthly GEARs session (<u>G</u>athering to <u>E</u>nrich and <u>A</u>dvance <u>R</u>esearch) where specific aims pages, new Institutional Cores, and tips/tricks on navigating research administration at UAB are discussed among faculty, staff, and trainees.

Topics in 2024 included:

- Leveraging big data and community-engaged sciences for social and policy determinants of health in HIV and women's health: feedback on two R01 specific aims pages presented by Dr. Rana Patel.
- Adapting a Telecommunicator Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Protocol to Enhance Bystander Engagement in the Deep South presented by Dr. Ryan Coute.
- UAB Mixed Methods Research, Community-Based Participatory Research and Qualitative Research (MMR/CBPR/QR) presented by Dr. Nataliya Ivankova and Dr. Ronit Elk.
- A Sawtooth "Sandbox" for Conjoint Analysis & Discrete Choice presented by Dr. Courtney Williams, Dr. Kristy Broman, Patricia Smith and Tara Wood.

Office of Research Synthesis

"Five Stages in a Systematic Review: Skimming the Mountain Tops of Literature Landscapes"

In-person short course

June 10-14 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

BDB 826

Course Overview

Dr. Kaiser will provide an introduction and hands-on guidance on the conduct of systematic reviews.

- Day 1: Overview and Toolkit
- Day 2: Friends don't let friends do systematic reviews
- Day 3: HELP! I found too much or I found too little
- Day 4: How can I ever synthesize this mess?
- Day 5: A failure to plan is a plan to fail

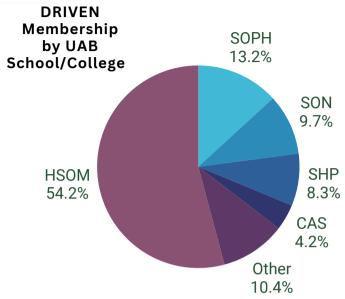


Presented by: Kathryn Kaiser, PhD Director of the COERE Office of Research Synthesis

In June 2024, the Office of **Research Synthesis held the** second annual 5-day short course titled, Five Stages in a Systematic Review: Skimming the Mountain Tops of Literature Landscapes, and was extremely successful. Twenty faculty, staff, and students enrolled with 10+ on the waitlist. Dr. Kathryn Kaiser, Director of COERE's Office of Research Synthesis, continues to follow up and consult with several short course attendees via weekly office hours on Boshell 8 (the COERE's physical footprint on campus).



Founded in 2019, DRIVEN is a university-wide program seeking to cultivate a community of interdisciplinary clinical and translational investigators and promote their individual and collective professional development, recognition, and advancement in order to foster an inclusive, equitable and diverse research workforce. Programs include The DRIVEN Academy, CARES at UAB, Microgrants, Writing Accountability Groups, a monthly newsletter, and community building events.



The DRIVEN Academy: A Research & Coaching Symposium

Over 20 research-interested, early career faculty from five UAB Schools gathered for the DRIVEN Academy on September 19 and 20. Participants came together at the networking reception prior to the DRIVEN Academy event where they reconnected with colleagues, forged new connections, and mingled with the speakers. At the **DRIVEN** Academy, participants obtained valuable learnings related to their professional and personal development from the speakers. Dr. Wonder Drake, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Director of the Sarcoidosis Center at The **University of Maryland Medical School** shared her tips on goal-setting and thriving in an, Scientist at UAB. Dr. Orlando Gutierrez, Director of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Director,



DRIVEN 2024 Academy Partipants

Division of Nephrology at UAB shared lessons from his career journey on finding mentors, developing a diverse tool kit, and networking. Dr. Laurence Boitet, Assistant Professor, Director of Biomedical Trainee Wellness at UAB, spoke to participants on the topic of "job crafting" or aligning one's values, needs, and passions with one's job. Participants also obtained tips to improve their personal well-being. Dr. Stephanie Yates, Professor of Accounting and Finance at UAB, shared tips for building a secure financial future. Participants also immersed themselves in a SKY breathing and mediation exercise led by Dr. Ritu Aneja, Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Innovation at UAB and Dr. Vinitha Ganes, Scientist at UAB.



CARES at UAB Awardees \$1 Million in "Extra Hands" Awards to Research-intensive Faculty Caregivers

CARES at UAB Themes and Illustrative Quotes from In-depth Interviews with Awardees

Feeling Valued

"We all have stuff going on outside of work that makes it hard. The caregiving needs are real. We need culture change around that. I appreciate how CARES is kind of contributing to that piece."

"It's just so difficult. I had all these things against me -- being someone with health issues and a mom. It's almost like this system was not necessarily built for someone like me to succeed and CARES helps with that." "I think it (CARES at UAB) actually makes you even more productive because you feel valued. You feel like people are understanding some of the challenges you're going through."

"I thought it was nice that UAB recognized that certain people were struggling around childcare and things outside of work. They were actually trying to help you out to get back on your feet."

<u>Sense of Community</u>

"I think that the frank discussions -- that felt like a safe space... You know that other people are feeling the same way or experiencing similar challenges."

"What I benefitted from is the camaraderie that relates to the struggles that other individuals in kind of a similar stage of career are experiencing ...Sometimes it's just good to know that I'm not the only one with these struggles"

"I think the seminar series that went along with CARES was probably the biggest help. For us, hearing other people's stories was fantastic and the ways other people have dealt with stress. "

<u>Lifeline</u>

"CARES was really helpful getting me through what have been a 6-month cliff. Money was running short in the lab and we didn't have major grants coming in, so CARES was really helpful. It kept things afloat until new grants came in."

"At the time (when I received the CARES funding), I didn't have any reserves or my 2 R01s yet, and it provided security that I very much needed at the time ... at that point I desperately needed it."

"You only have certain years to get your first K. You only have certain years to get your R. So, helping us buy back some of the time, giving us some additional extra hands is very helpful."

Scientific Productivity

"I have folks (hired with CARES funding) helping me with small tasks like literature reviews. That's a big deal for me -- it's maybe 2 or 3 hours of my time I could be spending on writing grants."

"It was great to build up that momentum back again and have that study up and running. We are up-to-date in terms of data collection, processing of samples and everything."

"With the help of the CARES funding, I completed it (my study) in two semesters instead of maybe five semesters."

"Because [research coordinator hired with CARES funding] freed up that time, I was able to switch that time to things like other funding submissions and papers and presentations ... it allowed me to do my job instead of having to do a program coordinator job."

"I'd say we've been able to submit grants that we wouldn't have otherwise been able to submit and get papers published (because CARES funded a research coordinator)."

"I've had the time to kind of think and breathe and move forward with my K23. So, I think it's really just given me a lot of mental bandwidth to not have to do those tasks (data entry, recruitment)."





Centered around the theme of Implementation Science, the Annual COERE Methods Symposium is a half-day event featuring presentations by national thought leaders and UAB scholars in the field. This symposium aims to offer a comprehensive overview for a diverse health services and outcomes research audience while also delving into recent developments and innovative directions. The 2024 symposium featured talks on methods, models, and frameworks relevant to the field of implementation science. Composed of four distinguished speakers, the 2024 symposium featured talks from Drs. Eva Woodward from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Jereme Wilroy from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Alicia Bunger from The Ohio State University. The symposium reached its pinnacle with the Meredith Kilgore Endowed Lectureship delivered by Dr. Maria Fernandez from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, generously sponsored by the UAB School of Public Health. Established in 2020, the Kilgore Endowed Lectureship serves as a tribute to the late Dr. Kilgore, commemorating his substantial contributions to health services and outcomes research, as well as his impactful roles as the Co-Director of the COERE and the UAB Health Services Research Training Program. The Symposium continues to reach large local and national audiences with 63 attendees in-person and 130 attendees online.



2024 Symposium Speakers

Maria Fernandez, PhD UTHealth Houston Alicia Bunger, MSW, PhD The Ohio State University Jereme Wilroy, PhD The University of Alabama at Birmingham Eva Woodward, PhD University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

HEALTH SYSTEM INVESTIGATORS AND PARTNERS (HSIP)



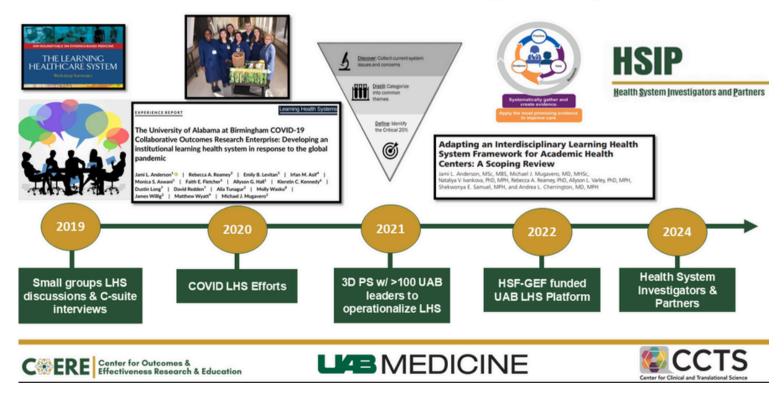
Health System Investigators and Partners



Health System Investigators and Partners (HSIP), housed within the COERE, was based on the concept of a learning health system focused on breaking down the "false trichotomy" that clinical care, health operations, and research function independently. In response to complex, clinical and operational challenges health systems must design, implement, evaluate, disseminate, and spread innovative approaches to improve quality of care and health outcomes. University researchers also have a growing interest in using health care settings as their research 'labs.' Health System Investigators and Partners is dedicated to supporting research, quality improvement, and other activities that seek to improve the quality of health care at UAB Medicine and beyond. HSIP seeks to:

- Fosters collaborations between UAB Faculty, students, and staff and UAB Medicine providers and administrators
- Supports evaluations and research of innovative health system initiatives in collaboration with health system partners
- Assists clinical faculty and providers with study design, study execution, and the dissemination of findings from improvement and research projects
- Facilitate access to health system data
- Supports extramural grant applications focused on quality improvement and research using the health system as its lab

Where are we on our LHS journey?





Several members of the COERE and the Center's administrative team recently attended the OneFlorida+ Clinical Research Network and the University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute's 2nd Annual Learning Health System and AI Workshop, held on September 5-6 at the Omni Amelia Island Resort in Florida. The event focused on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with the Learning Health System (LHS), Patient-centered Outcomes Research, and Real-World Evidence.

David Randall and Drs. Gabriela Oates, Tapan Mehta, and Orlando Gutierrez showcased LHS initiatives at UAB by participating in panel discussions.



PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

🕑 <u>coere@uabmc.edu</u>

www.uab.edu/medicine/coere/



We want to better health outcomes for all while addressing health disparities along the way. Your gift is vital to helping UAB achieve these meaningful endeavors. We're forging the future of medicine. The Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education has a bright outlook for the future. The support of visionary philanthropic partners provides the potential for major breakthroughs in caring for people, teaching, and creating knowledge.



www.uab.edu/medicine/coere/give