Division of Health Policy and Management

2024-2025 Year in Review

SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

From the Division Head

Greetings from the Division of Health Policy and Management! This annual report highlights many activities and accomplishments of our talented faculty, staff, and students during the 2024-2025 academic year. While public health and higher education are facing a more challenging environment today than in the past, our faculty, staff, and students remain fully committed to our research, education, and community engagement mission. I encourage you to take a few minutes to learn more about who we are, what we do, and the impact we are having on health policy and practice today. Special thanks to all those who contributed to the report as well as Mona Rath who oversaw its production.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Abraham
James A. Hamilton Chair in Health Policy and Management
Professor and Head
Division of Health Policy and Management

Mission and Vision

Mission
The Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health improves the health of all populations by
- creating and sharing research evidence to inform policy and practice
- developing professionals for administrative, policy, and research careers
- collaborating with our local, state, and national partners to address critical public health and healthcare challenges and to design innovative solutions

Vision
Advancing health and healthcare for all through evidence and education.

Values
Impact | Excellence | Equity | Integrity | Collaboration

2024-2025 At a Glance

$23M	219	131	119	$1M+	316	104
Research Funding	Faculty Publications	Faculty and Staff	Courses Taught	Student Financial Aid	Total Students	Graduates

Education Programs

The Division of Health Policy and Management offers a variety of degree programs, including full-time and flexible degrees for working professionals. Our diverse programs prepare leaders and enhance mid-career professionals' leadership capabilities.

MHA Residential Program

The Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) residential program prides itself on its theory-driven, practice-enabled approach to preparing students for successful careers in healthcare administration. This year, our faculty engaged in a comprehensive curriculum review to identify and incorporate opportunities for learning innovation in healthcare delivery and financing. We continue to focus on sustainability, building on the distinction of being one of the first graduate programs to offer such a course. This year, the program also launched a new elective in artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare delivery. Experiential learning is also emphasized with many students participating in case competitions and interprofessional learning activities. This year, the program sponsored an Advanced Problem Solving Capstone team in Kenya to work with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center. Additionally, students completed summer residencies in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. Our students' educational experiences have been enriched this year by more than 100 alumni and industry partners who have actively engaged through guest lectures, supporting summer residency experiences, and mentoring students.

MHA Residential
57 Students
58% Female
37% Minnesota residents
62% Out-of-state
1% International

MHA Executive Program

The MHA executive program achieved notable milestones this year. In December, 31 students from Cohort 14 successfully presented their Capstone projects and graduated, with 80% of students securing promotions during the program. Notably, Cohort 14 reported a 100 Net Promoter Score, indicating that all graduates would highly recommend the Minnesota MHA program to others. This year, we had three active cohorts as we transitioned the program from a January to August start. In fall, we welcomed 21 new students into Cohort 16, enriching our diverse community of healthcare leaders. These students, employed across the healthcare sector, continue to apply their advanced skills to drive innovation and improve organizational outcomes in their respective roles.

MHA Executive
71 Students
59% Female
67% Minnesota residents
33% Out-of-state

April Craig
Executive MHA student

"By learning problem-solving frameworks and methodologies, I have gained the ability to approach challenges with a structured and systematic mindset. This has empowered me to tackle complex healthcare issues more efficiently and effectively."

Master of Public Health - Public Health Administration and Policy (MPH-PHAP) Residential Program

The MPH-PHAP residential program actively engages students in developing the necessary skills for population-focused management, policy development, and evidence-based public health. During the past year, students wrote policy briefs and advocated for various public health causes with local legislators. Many also attended the 2024 American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting in Minneapolis. Notably, first-year student **Autumn Pease** spoke at the 2025 American Heart Association's Twin Cities Cycle Nation event to raise funds and resources for stroke prevention. Students **Elise Theodore** and **Hannah Witt** received the People's Choice Award for their poster at the School of Public Health's annual Research Day in April.

MPH-PHAP
46 Students
78% Female
65% Minnesota residents
30% Out-of-state
5% International

MPH-PHAP Distance Program

The MPH-PHAP distance track—a fully online, asynchronous program—started its fourth year in fall 2024. Distance students span the country and the globe, from Kampala to Phnom Penh to Quito. They work in public health departments, hospitals, non-government organizations, and health insurance companies.

MPH-PHAP Distance
28 Students
75% Female
29% Minnesota residents
60% Out-of-state
11% International

MPH-PHAP Executive Program

The MPH-PHAP executive program is delivered in a learning cohort model that blends online and on-campus coursework. All students start the program together and progress through the same curriculum, providing opportunities to learn and work together. The on-campus commitment includes five visits that are each three to four days long and focus on leadership, health policy, management, and applied case studies. Students average 10 years of work experience in various settings, including clinical practice, public health, community non-profits, health insurance companies, university research centers, and social services agencies.

MPH-PHAP Executive
67 Students
72% Female
85% Minnesota residents
15% Out-of-state

Nicholas Rethemeier
Executive MPH-PHAP Student

"My research focuses on the public health impacts of loneliness, an area I discovered in my current role as a program coordinator at the Mayo Clinic's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. I created a StoryMap that mapped risk factors for loneliness at the county level. It combined different passions — public health, map making, writing, and searching for meaning and belonging. With the help of Professor Rebecca Wurtz and my teaching fellow Jake Abrahams, I got to present this work to the Office of the Surgeon General, and my work was eventually published in *Comment* magazine."

Health Services Research, Policy and Administration (HSRP&A) MS and PhD

The Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs offer students multi-disciplinary training with a particular focus on analytical skills to pursue research careers in academia, industry, policy, and governmental organizations.

HSRP&A MS Program

Students in the HSRP&A MS program focus on learning knowledge and developing skills to improve how healthcare is delivered, accessed, and evaluated. The curriculum leverages coursework across disciplines to train graduates to be experts in topics within healthcare and public health systems. Students gain proficiency in different research methods, often qualitative and quantitative, that are transferred and applied to various professional work settings. Graduates find work in research, consulting, data analysis, or policy analysis within healthcare systems, government agencies, or universities, while others pursue PhD programs.

HSRP&A MS
14 Students
50% Female
57% Minnesota residents
14% Out-of-state
29% International

Bjorn Berg, PhD
Associate Professor and Director of HSRP&A MS Program

"Our MS program is designed to prepare students for impactful careers in healthcare and public health. We emphasize strong methodological training and real-world application, so graduates leave with the skills to lead research and contribute to health systems. It is incredibly rewarding to work with these students. They bring curiosity, commitment, and drive."

HSRP&A PhD Program

This past year, the HSRP&A PhD program implemented a change to the core curriculum, a new two-semester course sequence led by Professors **Sarah Gollust** and **Tim Beebe**. The courses provide students with an overview of the field of health services research and its interdisciplinary approaches. Topics include both theoretical and substantive topics in health policy and healthcare delivery, and spotlight research areas of expertise of the faculty. Students are applying what they learn from the classroom and in faculty-led research teams to their dissertation projects on a host of significant topics such as mental health equity, health care payment models, reproductive health, and access to care. The students consistently publish in peer-reviewed journals and present at a range of local and national conferences, intending to translate their work to have a meaningful impact on policy and practice. For the 2025-2026 academic year, the division faculty implemented a one-year pause in PhD admissions in light of the unprecedented levels of uncertainty in the federal funding environment. The division plans to resume recruitment of a new cohort of doctoral students in the coming year.

HSRP&A PhD
33 Students
57% Female
72% Minnesota residents
12% Out-of-state
16% International

Libby Watts
HSRP&A PhD student

Research by student and lead author **Libby Watts** found that the 340B drug discount program boosts safety-net care in Federally Qualified Health Centers. The study was published in *JAMA Health Forum*. PhD students **Claire McGlave** and **Nicole Quinones** co-authored the study.

Conducting Innovative Research

Our faculty create and share research evidence to inform policy and improve health outcomes.

Paige Nong

Study analyzes hospitals' use of AI-assisted predictive tools for accuracy and biases

Research conducted by lead author **Assistant Professor Paige Nong, PhD,** provides one of the first national analyses of how hospitals in the U.S. are utilizing AI-assisted predictive models. Her study, published in *Health Affairs*, evaluates the various ways hospitals are implementing these technologies. By analyzing responses from 2,425 acute-care hospitals that participated in the 2023 American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey, the research explores differences in the adoption, usage, and evaluation capacity among hospitals. It highlights a growing digital divide between hospitals with more financial resources and those that are under-resourced. The study underscores the need for policies and practices to promote fair and accurate AI, including financial incentives, technical support, and enhanced regulatory oversight.

Helen Parsons

Study examines the financial burdens of cancer survivors

Professor Helen Parsons, PhD, researches the financial and administrative burdens that individuals face after a cancer diagnosis. This year, she and her team published a commentary in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* that outlines how healthcare communities can mitigate these time and administrative burdens to improve access to care and enhance the quality of life in cancer survivors. This discussion builds on ongoing recent work by their team, including two recent studies in *JAMA Network Open*. The first highlighted the often "invisible" time burdens of healthcare experienced by cancer survivors such as completing administrative tasks (e.g., addressing insurance denials) and other time-consuming tasks (e.g., traveling to appointments, parking, waiting), while the second examined the growing out-of-pocket burden of medical equipment that cancer survivors experience. These studies highlight the importance of incorporating policies that streamline authorization processes and adopt patient-centered approaches to care delivery to reduce financial and administrative burdens.

Influencing Policy

HPM faculty members engage with state and national legislators on a variety of topics.

Professor Katy Kozhimannil, PhD, and research fellow **Julia Interrante, PhD,** met with legislators and policymakers at all levels of government about their research tracking obstetric unit closures. Katy and Julia's expertise was formative in the drafting and introduction of the Keep Obstetrics Local Act (2024) in the U.S. Senate, as well as the bipartisan Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act (2025). Both bills are designed to address the crisis of maternity unit closures, which disproportionately impact rural places.

Associate Professor Sayeh Nikpay, PhD, presented to policymakers in Minnesota on how to implement the nation's first-ever 340B transparency requirement—a drug purchasing plan meant to help core safety net healthcare organizations dependent on Federal grants. Contracting with the Minnesota Department of Health, she led a small team of research assistants in assessing and analyzing these data alongside state analysts. The work led to unprecedented new findings on the amount of revenue generated by organizations participating in the program. This work has led to discussions in the Minnesota legislature about how much Minnesota's Medicaid program should pay for discounted medicines, as well as similar discussions with federal policymakers and state prescription drug affordability boards.

Faculty Promotions

We are happy to acknowledge the recent promotion of two faculty members for their academic achievements.

Ezra Golberstein, PhD
Promoted to Professor

Helen Parsons, PhD
Promoted to Professor

Awards and Appointments

Faculty and Staff

Professor Jean Abraham, PhD, was recognized with the University of Minnesota's 2024-2025 Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education, an honor that recognizes and celebrates faculty members who have made significant contributions to graduate and professional education.

Professor Sarah Gollust, PhD, was appointed editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* for a three-year term. The journal focuses on the initiation, formulation, and implementation of health policy and analyzes the relations between government and health—past, present, and future.

Rural Health Research Center researchers **Professor Katy Kozhimannil, PhD**, **Julia Interrante, HSRP&A PhD '22**, **Alyssa Fritz, MPH,** and **Cynthia Pando, HSRP&A PhD '24**, received the John M. Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year Award from the top-in-our-field journal, *Health Services Research*.

Assistant Professor J'Mag Karbeah, PhD, was named the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs. The position provides one year of support for the research activities of a University of Minnesota faculty member on a project related to urban and regional affairs in Minnesota. J'Mag's award focuses on experiences of racial and gender discrimination in ethnically diverse Black youth.

Grants and Contracts Professionals **Linda Molloy**, **Adam Recknor**, **Lisa Schouviller**, and **Sarah Trachet** were among a team of grant administrators who received the School of Public Health Grant Administrator Community of Practice, Teamwork Excellence Award for their contributions to the School of Public Health Community of Practice (SPH CoP).

Mariana Tuttle, MPH, a research fellow for the Rural Health Research Center (RHRC), received the School of Public Health's Judy Peterson Staff Excellence Award, for her outstanding contributions to the Rural Health Research Center, the Division of Health Policy and Management, the School of Public Health, and her commitment to health equity.

Professor Rebecca Wurtz, MD, was awarded the School of Public Health Charles N. Hewitt Award for her outstanding contributions to public health education. Rebecca teaches Health Leadership and Effecting Change, Principles of Management in Health Services Organizations, Public Health Informatics and Information Systems, and the MPH-PHAP and HSRP&A MS Master's Project Seminar.

Awards and Appointments

Students

Executive MPH-PHAP student **Rodrigo Andres Stein Morales** was one of ten people from across the country to be named "Students Who Rocked Public Health" by the *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice*.

Alumni

Peiyin Hung, HSRP&A PhD '15, received the National Rural Health Association's 2025 Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award. Peiyen is an associate professor and co-director of the University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center.

Staff Spotlights

Our committed staff support the research, education, and administrative efforts that drive our mission and values.

Chelsey Kirkland, PhD, MPH
Researcher
Center for Public Health Systems (CPHS)

"Despite overcoming decades of hurdles, the public health workforce still faces substantial challenges. I collaborate with practitioners and national agencies to pinpoint and help solve the evolving needs of the public health field. One impactful project directly engaged the Minnesota public health workforce in identifying their greatest challenges, leading to the highly successful Minnesota Public Health Corps. The most fulfilling aspect of my work is knowing that it directly supports the public health workforce and the ripple impacts on the communities they serve."

Chris Miller, MEd
Student Services Coordinator
Executive and Distance MPH-PHAP Programs

"We now need strong public health more than ever. Every student in our program is highly intelligent and quite driven. My role is to help clear obstacles on the path to the completion of their MPH degree, so students can get out in the world and advocate for healthier, safer communities. The most important aspect of my work is to provide support and encouragement to students. I remove obstacles, create connections, and offer reassurance, all to help them focus on their studies and reach their career goals."

Alumni Profiles

HPM alumni shape public health policy, become healthcare leaders, conduct ground-breaking research, lead innovative public health solutions, and shape the future of public health.

Margaret Tait, HSRP&A PhD '23

"I served as a teaching assistant for Caitlin Carroll and Dori Cross, and these experiences provided me with ideas for my classrooms on how to teach effectively and employ different strategies for student engagement."

Margaret Tait is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Studies at the University of Richmond. Her research employs methods from public policy analysis, political science, and public health to examine how health and social policies are understood and communicated, as well as their implications for policy reform. Margaret's research has been published in journals such as *Social Science and Medicine – Population Health*, *Public Health Reports*, *Preventive Medicine Reports*, and the *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. She recently received a small grant to support a new collaboration with colleagues from Bon Secours Health System, Point Park University, and the University of Virginia, exploring how people who do not identify with the religion of a health system experience care and their perceptions of discrimination.

Tim Fries, Executive MPH '20

"I know how important it is to be active in the legislative area. And to do that, you need to think about how healthcare affects groups of people and populations, which is a public health perspective."

Tim Fries is a member of the Ohio Optometric Association Board of Trustees and has been a long-time advocate for optometry, understanding that healthcare is a legislated profession. In response to the increasing takeover of optometry practices by private equity firms, Fries co-founded the Optometric Management Group (OMG), a joint venture with VSP Vision Care, the world's largest vision care plan. He currently serves as the president of the Ohio Optometric Association and as the senior director of clinical professional affairs at VSP Ventures, where he oversees clinical operations and strategy for 80 locations. Additionally, Tim is an associate professor at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, and a member of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health alumni board.

Research Centers

The Division of Health Policy and Management is home to eight research centers. Major public and private funders frequently select us to lead critical research, training, and policy development projects.

State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)

SHADAC is a multidisciplinary health policy research center using data to inform state policy and foster health equity. The center proudly serves as a leading source of health policy data, providing analysis and information that is trusted, unbiased, and flexible, and imperative in a rapidly changing policy landscape. SHADAC commits to this mission by engaging in research, evaluation, and technical support on a range of topics, including healthcare coverage, cost, and access. **Director Elizabeth Lukanen, MPH**, leads SHADAC, following founder and director Lynn Blewett's phased retirement. In 2024-2025, SHADAC:

- Hosted a webinar with a U.S. Census Bureau expert, reviewing the most recent estimates of health insurance coverage;
- Updated our Minnesota Community and Uninsured Profile, providing users with deeper understanding of population characteristics and community needs across Minnesota;
- Led research on emerging and timely topics, including the opioid crisis since the pandemic, developing a toolkit for the Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council, conducting an analysis of adults in California with limited English proficiency (LEP), and conducting a review of existing state-based, single-payer economic analyses for the Minnesota Department of Health;
- Supported and mentored graduate research assistants who meaningfully contributed toward our mission;
- Created a series of 'Basics Blogs' connecting wide audiences with important public health and policy information; and
- Received over 200 media mentions and citations.

Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC)

Established in 1996, ResDAC is funded by a contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ResDAC provides technical assistance to academic, non-profit, for-profit, and government researchers who use CMS data to improve health outcomes and innovate new programs and services. **Associate Professor Nathan Shippee, PhD**, directs the center. ResDAC remains responsible for a striking volume of work. Over the past 12 months, ResDAC:

- Answered 3,740 individual questions from researchers helping them navigate and understand CMS policies;
- Assisted researchers in submitting 381 new study requests, 775 requests to amend existing Data Use Agreements (DUA), 723 access amendments for Virtual Research Data Center (VRDC) DUAs, and 36 requests from Qualified Entities;
- Completed 2,316 DUA maintenance actions (extensions, closures, contact changes);
- Completed data entry on 1,623 approved DUAs;
- Hosted four workshops on Medicare/Medicaid data;
- Added a User Experience task to the contract focused on improving the process for researchers to get an approved DUA with CMS; and
- Remained committed to sharing expertise and information via technical briefs and presentations, including work by several faculty and two full-time analysts engaged in user support and deep-dive explorations into the data for methodological and other questions.

Midwest Analytics and Disease Modeling Center (MADMC)

The [Midwest Analytics and Disease Modeling Center](#) is a collaborative partnership between the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Electronic Health Records Consortium (MNEHRC). Its mission is to ensure decision makers have the information and tools they need to make informed policy decisions during public health emergencies. We employ a wide range of methods, including infectious disease modeling, advanced data visualization, decision analysis, machine learning, and geospatial analysis, to address current public health needs and prepare for future public health emergencies. **Associate Professor Eva Enns, PhD**, co-directs the center. Over the past year, MADMC has:

- Conducted listening sessions with key stakeholders, including health systems, local public health, and MDH staff and leadership, to gather feedback on the use of models and analytic tools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Results are being used to inform and improve the design and implementation of these tools;
- Developed and deployed an influenza data dashboard at MDH that includes both geospatial cluster detection components to identify influenza hotspots as well as decision support components to rapidly identify disparities in vaccine uptake and estimate the potential impact of vaccination on flu hospitalization rates across the state;
- Responded in real-time to the recent human parvovirus B19 outbreak with a combination of electronic health record analytics and mathematical scenario modeling; and
- Provided training in both analytic methods and applied public health practice to one undergraduate student, five graduate students, and one postdoctoral fellow.

Center for Public Health Systems (CPHS)

The [Center for Public Health Systems](#) (CPHS) supports health departments and practitioners by developing and applying evidence-based public health practices and resources in collaboration with governments, organizations, and communities. **Associate Professor JP Leider, PhD**, directs the center. Over the past year:

- CPHS coordinated the 2024 enumeration of the governmental public health workforce, the first major enumeration of the field since 2014, providing data critical for evaluating the effectiveness of public health capacity-building efforts. A four-article mini-supplement was published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.
- CPHS was instrumental in Minnesota Public Health Corps (MNPHC) member training, evaluation, and quality improvement. The *Health Affairs* editor-in-chief named CPHS' article, Minnesota Public Health Corps: A New Model For Building The Governmental Public Health Workforce, a top article of the year. Since 2022, 253 MNPHC members have spent 198,280 hours building capacity within 64 public health host sites, most of which are health departments.
- CPHS is part of the newly launched Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response, which is a collaborative initiative designed to strengthen public health emergency preparedness and response by identifying and implementing evidence-based strategies and interventions.
- CPHS, a member of the Center for Workforce Research in Public Health (CWORPH) presented a series of five webinars on findings from Year 2 of the HRSA and CDC-funded Public Health Workforce Research Center award. The award includes at least $4.8 million over 5 years to conduct field-building national-level research projects on the U.S. public health workforce.

Minnesota Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC)

The [Minnesota Evidence-based Practice Center](#), a joint effort between the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis VA Health Care System, focuses on improving healthcare system stewardship and individual health management. **Associate Professor Mary Butler, PhD,** EPC co-director, specializes in peer-reviewed systematic reviews to synthesize research across a variety of health topics for federal and state entities, professional associations, and foundations. Since 2002, EPC has been one of nine centers funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). It employs interdisciplinary teams combining expertise from the University's School of Public Health, the Division of Health Policy and Management, other departments, and the Minneapolis VA's research centers. In the past year, EPC has:

- Partnered with Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to perform evidence synthesis supporting several professional organizations in the development of clinical guidelines;
- Conducted an evidence review to assess the benefits and harms of screening/diagnostic interventions and treatments for co-occurring medical conditions in adults with Down syndrome, Findings will be used to update the Global Down Syndrome Foundation (GLOBAL) 2020 guidelines;
- Conducted an evidence review to examine trauma-informed care approaches for the National Institute of Mental Health. The goal of this research was to establish the state of the science on its effectiveness and potential harms; and
- Worked jointly with the University of Minnesota Center for Learning Health System Sciences (CLHSS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on evidence synthesis for developing clinical practice guidelines for managing postoperative pain in abdominal laparoscopic surgery.

Rural Health Research Center

The University of Minnesota [Rural Health Research Center](#) (RHRC) conducts policy-relevant research and implements programs to improve the lives of rural residents and families, to improve population health, and to enhance the vitality of rural communities. The RHRC is directed by **Professor Katy Kozhimannil, PhD**, and **Associate Professor Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD**. The RHRC oversees the following programs:

- The RHRC Grant is a cooperative agreement funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), which supports national-scope research on access to and quality of care across the lifespan, using quantitative and qualitative methods;
- The Flex Monitoring Team (FMT), led by principal investigator **Megan Lahr, MPH,** and also funded by FORHP, works to evaluate the Flex Program that provides support to over 1,350 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) across the country. FMT completes multiple projects per year, including data analyses and best practices for State Flex Programs and CAHs;
- The Rural Maternity Team is funded by several federal contracts to support analysis, data management, and technical assistance related to rural maternity care;
- The Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging (INRPHA), funded by the National Institute on Aging, facilitates collaborative and innovative research on health and aging trends among different rural populations and regions in the United States;
- The Rural Health Program, funded by the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) and the Office of Academic and Clinical Affairs (OACA), provides training and support for public health challenges in rural Minnesota and connects local experts with national research and policy work. The Rural Health Program has three components: the Rural Health Policy Postdoctoral Program, Project REACH (Rural Experts Advancing Community Health), and the University of Minnesota Rural Collective.

Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation (CHAI)

CHAI is dedicated to advancing research, education, and community partnerships that promote healthy aging in Minnesota, the U.S., and beyond. Since our relaunch in 2020, CHAI has grown into a nationally recognized leader in gerontology, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and impactful scholarship. **Professor Joseph Gaugler, PhD**, directs the center.

In 2024, CHAI members contributed significantly to the field, with over 40 presentations at the Gerontological Society of America meeting, highlighting research on aging, healthcare innovation, and policy change. CHAI also hosted its second annual invited reception, bringing together nearly 90 scholars and practitioners to strengthen networks and celebrate progress.

This year, CHAI facilitated doctoral and master's student research, providing mentorship and funding opportunities that enhanced student engagement in aging-related studies. Through sustained collaboration with over 100 external organizations and community stakeholders, CHAI has continued to inform and advance aging-related policies, care models, and systems change. The Center's structure—comprising five strategic cores in Research, Education, Policy, Equity/Community Engagement, and Clinical Practice—ensures a comprehensive and coordinated approach to innovation in aging.

CHAI now includes 170 members across 68 University units, 104 community partners representing 65 organizations, and 63 active student members through the Aging Studies Interdisciplinary Group. Guided by a Community Advisory Board and a Strategic Advisory Council of older adults and gerontology professionals, CHAI remains grounded in equity, inclusion, and community voice.

Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity (CARHE)

The Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity (CARHE) concluded its operations on May 30, 2025. For four years, CARHE-affiliated faculty, staff, and students engaged in scholarly research, community engagement, and narrative change to advance health equity. Although the center has closed, impactful research to address health and healthcare inequities continues across the School of Public Health.

Research Training Programs

Minnesota Learning Health System Embedded Scientist Training & Research Program (MN-LHS)

The MN-LHS program trains embedded researchers to conduct patient-centered research and improve healthcare within a learning health system. In addition to funding from an AHRQ/PCORI P30 award, this program has also been funded through the Center for Learning Health System Sciences (CLHSS), Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), and the Office of Academic Clinical Affairs (OACA). The program has eight active scholars from Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis VA, Essentia Health, HealthPartners, and M Health Fairview. In addition, the MN-LHS program launched its fellowship program in October 2024, with ten fellows onboarded into the program. In September, the center also hosted the 2024 Advances in Learning Health System Sciences Conference featuring guest speakers, panel discussions, scientific forums, and poster presentations. **Professor Timothy Beebe, PhD,** co-directs the program with Dr. Genevieve Melton-Meaux of the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Events

Guest speaker Alan Weil
We were delighted to welcome Alan Weil as an HPM seminar speaker in September. Weil, the former editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs,* currently holds the position of senior vice president for public policy at AARP.

Pictured left to right: Professor Lynn Blewett, Alan Weil, and Assistant Professor Caitlin Carroll; Associate Professor Sayeh Nikpay, Professor Jean Abraham, and Professor Sarah Gollust: Alan Weil conversing with Senior Lecturer Matt Anderson; HSRP&A students Zongbo Li, Tyler Boese, and Roshani Dahal; Assistant Professor Caitlin Carroll, Assistant Professor Paige Nong, and Professor Sarah Gollust.

David J. Fine Distinguished Visiting Professor in Healthcare Administration
This event brings a nationally recognized senior academic professional and thought leader to campus each academic year to offer a public lecture and to meet with students, faculty, alumni, and the broader University community. In September, we welcomed visiting professor and speaker **Sara J. Singer**, professor of health policy at Stanford University School of Medicine. Singer's lecture examined the need for technologies, including artificial intelligence, to deliver high-quality care in clinical settings.

Pictured left to right: Sara J. Singer, PhD; view of McNamara Alumni Center; Associate Professor Katie White, EdD

AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

HPM Reception June 9, 2025

The 2025 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting took place in Minneapolis in June, where over 100 alumni, faculty, students, and staff gathered for the annual HPM friends and alumni reception at Brit's Pub which provided a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate our community. A heartfelt tribute was offered for **Peter Veazie, HSRP&A PhD '03**, alum and professor at the University of Rochester, who passed away unexpectedly in early 2025. The tribute was led **by Matt Maciejewski, HSP&A PhD '98** and Alina Denham (Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University and former student of Dr. Veazie's.)

AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

Poster presentations
Many HPM faculty, staff, students, and alumni presented their research during the ARM conference.

Professor Sarah Gollust, PhD

Claire McGlave, HSRP&A PhD student

CeRon Ford, HSRP&A PhD student

Julia Interrante, HSRP&A PhD '22
Senior Fellow, RHRC

Tyler Boese, HSRP&A PhD student

Henry Stabler, HSRP&A PhD '22
Researcher, CPHS

Laura Attanasio, HSRP&A PhD '16

Ellen McCreedy, HSP&A PhD '16

Libby Watts, HSRP&A PhD student

FACULTY

Jean Abraham, PhD
James A. Hamilton Chair in Health Policy and Management
Professor and Division Head
Private health insurance, employer wellness program evaluation, digital health for disease prevention and management, value-based payment models

Timothy Beebe, PhD
James A. Hamilton Professor of Healthcare Management
Survey methods, patient-reported outcome measurement, health measurement, health care access for vulnerable populations, health insurance, learning health systems research

Bjorn Berg, PhD
Associate Professor
Healthcare operations, scheduling in healthcare, stochastic optimization, simulation

Lynn Blewett, PhD
Professor
Healthcare policy, access to care, Medicaid/CHIP, immigrant health, survey research, international health systems

Mary Butler, PhD, MBA
Associate Professor
Evidence-based practice, evidence synthesis methods, learning health system cycle, evidence-based research, knowledge generation

Caitlin Carroll, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health economics, health policy, hospital markets, rural health care, consolidation, payment reform, access to care, physician behavior

Dori Cross, PhD
Associate Professor
Digital healthcare, interoperability, transitions of care, teams and teamwork, delivery system reform, implementation science, mixed methods

Janette Dill, PhD
Associate Professor
Healthcare and public health workforce, direct care workers, gender and work, human resource practices and policies, job quality, and career mobility

Bryan Dowd, PhD
Professor
Health policy analysis, health economics, public finance, quantitative methods

Eva Enns, PhD
Associate Professor
Mathematical modeling, decision analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, economic evaluation, network analysis, model calibration, infectious disease, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, COVID-19

Joseph Gaugler, PhD
Professor and Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging
Distinguished McKnight University Professor
Alzheimer's disease and long-term care, longitudinal ramifications of family care for persons with dementia and other chronic conditions, community-based and psychosocial services for older adults with dementia and their caregiving families, mixed methods, intervention science, implementation science

Ezra Golberstein, PhD
Professor
Health economics, health care policy, mental health, quantitative methods, health insurance, Medicaid, provider incentives

Sarah Gollust, PhD
Professor
Politics of health policy, health equity, public opinion, mass communication, news media influence on public health, content analysis, survey research

Stuart Grande, PhD
Associate Professor
Antiracism and health equity, global health, health policy, systems, and management

Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, MPH, MSW
Associate Professor
Rural health, aging, long-term services and supports, mental health, health policy, health equity, social/structural/political drivers of health, social well-being

Peter Huckfeldt, PhD
Associate Professor and Vernon E. Weckwerth Professor in Healthcare Administration Leadership
Aging, chronic diseases, post-acute care, Medicare, health insurance, consumer-directed health plans, diabetes, health economics, health care provider organization and payment

J'Mag Karbeah, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Structural racism, social determinants of health, health equity, population health sciences, maternal and child health, adolescent health, medical education

Katy Backes Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA
Distinguished McKnight University Professor
Health policy, rural health, pregnancy and childbirth, maternal and child health, access to care, policy evaluation

Karen Kuntz, ScD
Professor
Chronic diseases, methods, decision analysis, simulation modeling, cost-effectiveness analysis, cancer screening

JP Leider, PhD
Associate Professor
Public health systems, public health workforce, finance, evaluation, disaster response, ethics of resource allocation

Hannah Neprash, PhD
Associate Professor
Health economics, health policy, public insurance programs, physician behavior, payment and delivery system reform, artificial intelligence in medicine, health care cybersecurity

Sayeh Nikpay, PhD
Associate Professor
Health economics, health policy, pharmaceuticals, health care affordability, 340B drug pricing program, safety-net providers

Manka Nkimbeng, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Minority aging, immigrant health, transnational aging, health equity, cognitive function, physical function, cultural adaptation, cultural humility, community-engaged research and community-based participatory research, intervention development.

Paige Nong, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health information technology, public trust, health data, structural racism, artificial intelligence, clinical decision support, learning health systems, document

Helen Parsons, PhD, MPH
Professor
Cancer survivorship, administrative/claims data, health policy, adolescents and young cancer survivors, Medicare/Medicaid, chronic disease, quality of care

Todd Rockwood, PhD
Associate Professor
Equity, measurement, survey research, social class

Nathan D. Shippee, PhD
Associate Professor
Patient/system complexity, health care delivery, chronic disease management, learning health systems, mental/behavioral health, barriers to care, quality of care, publicly insured (Medicare/Medicaid) populations, theoretical development, administrative data

Tetyana Pylypiv Shippee, PhD
Professor
Aging, equity, mixed methods, quality of life, long-term care quality, racial/ethnic equity, cumulative inequality theory, sexual and gender minority aging, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, community-engagement

Katie White, EdD, MBA
Associate Professor and Wegmiller Professor in Healthcare Administration
Healthcare delivery organizations, organizational change initiatives, evaluation of delivery system innovations, implementation science, qualitative and mixed methods research

Rebecca Wurtz, MD, MPH
Professor
Public health informatics, electronic laboratory reporting, population health data standards, "data exhaust," open health data, immunization barriers, public health law

Xiao Zang, PhD
Assistant Professor
Mathematical modeling, model calibration, cost-effectiveness analysis, distributional cost-effectiveness analysis, quasi-experimental methods, HIV/AIDS, harm reduction, drug overdose prevention

FULL-TIME SENIOR LECTURERS AND SENIOR FELLOWS

Matthew Anderson, JD
Senior Lecturer
Government and nonprofit organizations, legal experience in litigation and in-house counsel, healthcare consulting

Ryan Armbruster, MHA
Senior Fellow
Healthcare innovation, healthcare service design, climate change, and healthcare organizations

Brooke Dressen, MHA
Senior Lecturer
Healthcare administration summer residency and clerkship, career coaching, student mentor, and clerkship advisor.

Justine Mishek, MHA
Senior Lecturer
Healthcare administration problem solving, experiential learning

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