

Kaiser Permanente Research

Department of Research & Evaluation
2012 Annual Report



Bridging Research & Practice for Better Health



Vision

The Department of Research & Evaluation has an integral role in the success of Kaiser Permanente Southern California by conducting high-quality, innovative translational research that benefits the health of its members and the communities from which they come.

Mission

The mission of the Department of Research & Evaluation is to initiate and conduct high-quality, public-sector health services, epidemiologic, behavioral, and clinical research that has a demonstrable positive impact on the health and well-being of Kaiser Permanente Southern California members and the general population.

Advancing Science, Enhancing Lives

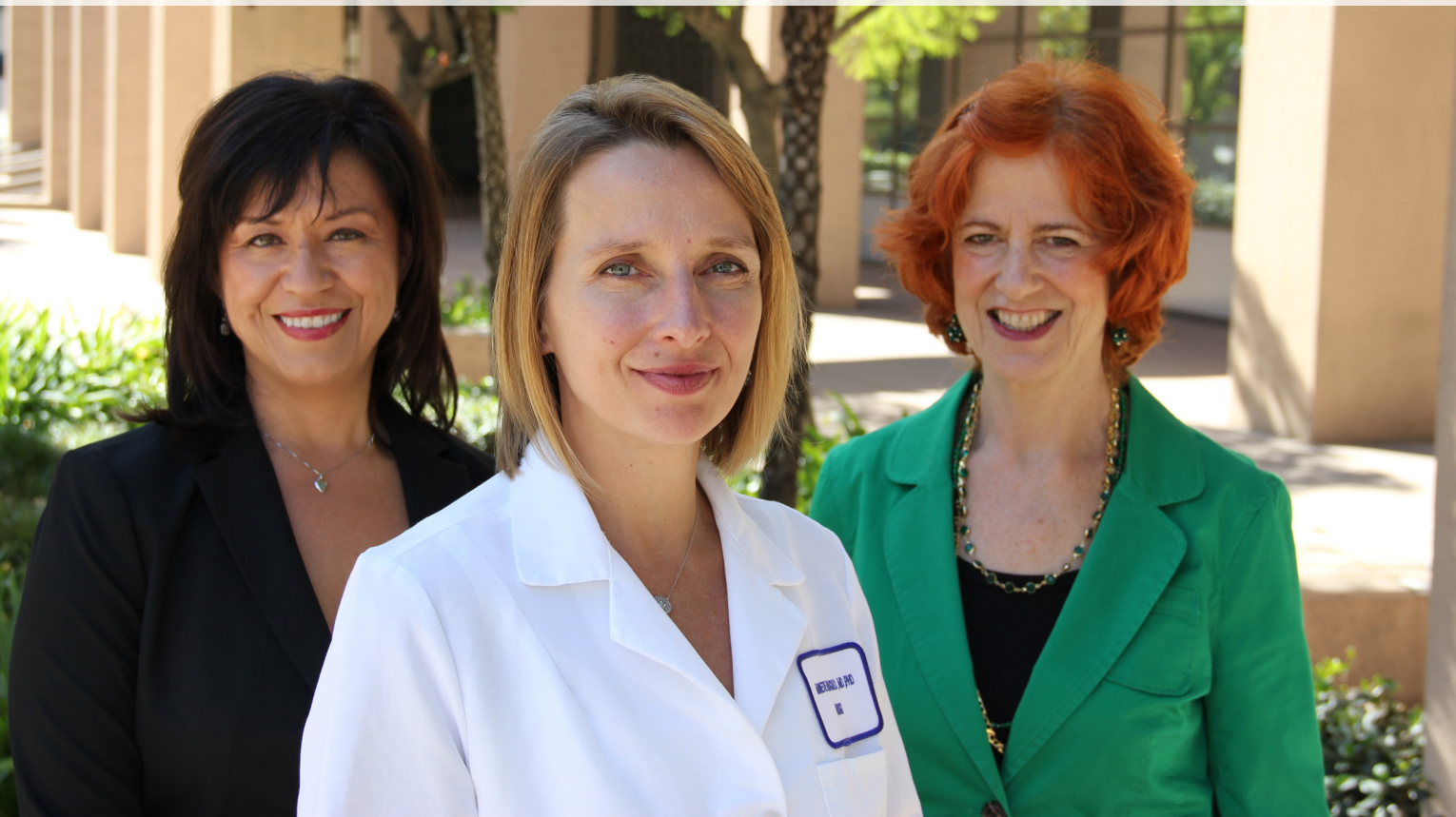
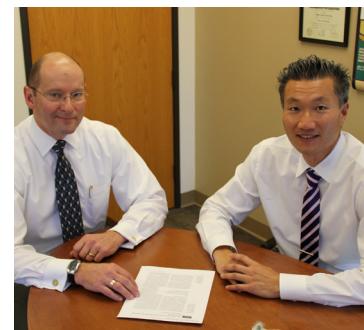


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Steven Jacobsen, MD, PhD

Director of Research,
Kaiser Permanente Southern California

Bridging Research & Practice for BETTER HEALTH

Message from the Director

At Kaiser Permanente, we have a tremendous opportunity to improve care delivery and health outcomes by taking what we learn through research and applying it to clinical operations.

My colleagues and I are fortunate to work in a real-world health care organization, surrounded by physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals who work every day to find better ways to protect and promote health.

We serve a diverse population of 3.6 million Kaiser Permanente Southern California members in an integrated system that provides a full range of care, from well-baby visits to end-of-life and palliative care. And we have an electronic health records system that tracks that care across outpatient and inpatient settings and includes pharmacy, laboratory, and radiology services.

Using Research to Transform Health

When we bring scientific expertise into this environment, it creates an incomparable opportunity to learn from the experiences of our region's clinical team. And as we find answers to important health questions, we partner with clinicians to use these findings to transform practice.

My colleagues are a prolific group. Research scientists and clinician researchers published 330 scholarly articles in 2012. Many had clinically relevant findings on topics ranging from asthma to vaccine safety and effectiveness.

Our work, however, does not stop at publication. As a department, we are increasingly focused on translating research findings into practice. Findings from recent research studies led to changes in screening for urinary tract cancers and the development of a regionwide outreach program to promote primary medication adherence.

"My colleagues and I are fortunate to work in a real-world health care organization, surrounded by physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals who work every day to find better ways to protect and promote health."

Diversified Funding Supports Growth

Federal grants fund a significant portion of our work to answer important health questions. New federal awards in 2012 will fund projects to better understand the safety of testosterone therapy, the long-term effects of hyperglycemia during pregnancy, and the safety and effectiveness of common vaccines.

Industry funds also support innovative research, particularly in the area of clinical trials. These trials provide our members access to drugs and therapies that are not yet available to the general public. In 2012, clinical trials provided more than 1,500 Kaiser Permanente Southern California members access to investigational drugs and therapies.

As an organization, Kaiser Permanente also makes a considerable investment in research. Internal funding supports clinician research projects and operational research. Kaiser Permanente is also funding the Research Project on Genes, the Environment, and Health, a large-scale endeavor to better understand the relationship between genetic and environmental influences on disease and health outcomes.

A Commitment to Innovative Research

In 2012, the scientific team added two additional full-time scientists, **John Adams, PhD**, and **Huong Q. Nguyen, PhD, RN**. **Brian Mittman, PhD**, a nationally renowned expert in implementation science, joined our department as a part-time faculty member. We also added a new postdoctoral researcher, **Sara Tartof, PhD**, to the team.

The research department as a whole continued to expand rapidly. By the end of 2012, there were 225 people based at the main research office in Pasadena. Some of the primary drivers of this growth were expansions to the biostatistics team, research support, and clinical trials.

The following pages outline some of our most important scientific accomplishments along with important departmental achievements from 2012. I'd like to tip my hat to Director of Research Administration **Sac Carreathers**, who has led much of the work to lead our team to achieve new heights, all while managing the day-to-day challenges of a growing research program.

I also want to thank all of you who are involved in research at Kaiser Permanente Southern California. I am fortunate to be surrounded every day by some of the best people I've ever worked with. Your commitment to making a real difference in people's health and lives through research is inspiring.

Be well and THRIVE.



Steven Jacobsen, MD, PhD

Director of Research,
Kaiser Permanente Southern California

Scientific Accomplishments



New Federal Grants Fund Transformational Research Projects

Researchers from Kaiser Permanente Southern California obtained federal grants for several transformational research and implementation projects in 2012. Each of the following projects takes on questions with important clinical and public health implications. Answers to these questions will guide prevention, treatment, and implementation strategies.

Safety of Testosterone Therapy

The National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Aging awarded a Research Project Grant (R01) to Kaiser Permanente Northern and Southern California to study the safety of testosterone therapy for older men who have symptoms associated with low testosterone.

The research team will review the electronic health records and clinical records of men who are Kaiser Permanente California members to determine the risk of cardiovascular problems associated with testosterone replacement. They also will evaluate whether men who take testosterone replacement are more likely to develop benign or malignant prostate disease.

Low testosterone affects approximately 9 percent of elderly males in the United States and is projected to increase as the population ages. This condition may cause decreased libido, erectile dysfunction, fatigue, and depression. Physicians are increasingly using testosterone therapy to treat these symptoms.

The National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Aging requested proposals to look at the safety of testosterone therapy in electronic health records for large populations after a recent clinical trial found a possible association between the drugs and cardiovascular problems.

Craig Cheetham, PharmD, MS, is the Principal Investigator for Kaiser Permanente Southern California.

Effects of Hyperglycemia During Pregnancy

Researchers from Kaiser Permanente Southern California are taking part in an international multi-center study exploring the long-term health consequences of hyperglycemia during pregnancy. The goal of the study is to determine whether high blood sugar during pregnancy influences body fat in children and the development of diabetes in mothers.

This study is a follow-up to the Hyperglycemia and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes (HAPO) study, which was conducted from 2000–2007. Kaiser Permanente's Bellflower Medical Center is one of 15 sites that participated in the original study and was selected to be one of the 10 centers to participate in the follow-up study.

In the original study, researchers found an association between a mother's glucose levels during pregnancy and her newborn's birth weight and body fat. This association held even when glucose levels did not indicate the mother needed treatment for gestational diabetes based on standards at the time of the study. The original study prompted changes in the diagnostic criteria for gestational diabetes.

The HAPO Follow-Up Study will evaluate the effect of glucose levels during these pregnancies on longer-term health outcomes for both the mother and child. Researchers will recruit mother-and-child pairs from the original study population to evaluate body mass index, blood pressure, body fat percentage, and insulin and lipid levels.

Jean Lawrence, ScD, MSSA, is the Field Center Principal Investigator for the HAPO Follow-Up Study. **David A. Sacks, MD**, was the Field Center Principal Investigator for the original study and is a Co-Investigator for the Follow-Up Study.

The study is funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, which is part of the National Institutes of Health.

Care of Mental, Physical, and Substance-Use Syndromes (COMPASS)

The COMPASS implementation project brings researchers and clinicians together to establish a new collaborative care model as the standard of care to manage depression and cardiovascular disease in the primary care setting. The project is funded by an innovation award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The goal of the COMPASS project is to change systems to institutionalize a proven approach to achieve the Triple Aim—improving health at the population level, while simultaneously enhancing each patient's care experience and reducing costs.

Kaiser Permanente Southern California is one of eight institutions in seven states participating in the COMPASS consortium. The consortium partners have committed to develop a common care model and training program based on a program developed by the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI), the University of Washington, and HealthPartners.

The Fontana, Los Angeles, San Diego, and South Bay medical center service regions are the primary sites participating in the Kaiser Permanente Southern California COMPASS project.

Karen Coleman, PhD, is the Site Principal Investigator.



Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention renewed funding in 2012 for Kaiser Permanente Southern California to participate in the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), a multi-site study of vaccine safety in a network of managed care organizations from across the United States.

The VSD performs studies that test hypotheses that emerge from the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System as well as those developed by national policy groups, clinicians, and others using a variety of study design methods. VSD data are also used to generate hypotheses, primarily through a rapid-cycle analysis mechanism.

Through the VSD, researchers in Kaiser Permanente Southern California participate in a variety of studies to evaluate the safety of vaccines. Recent studies have focused on vaccines for shingles, chicken pox, influenza, and pneumonia.

Steven J. Jacobsen, MD, PhD, is the Principal Investigator for the VSD at Kaiser Permanente Southern California. The renewal extends funding through 2017.

Also in 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded a grant to Kaiser Permanente Southern California to study the effectiveness of the herpes zoster vaccine in preventing postherpetic neuralgia in adults age 60 years and older. Postherpetic neuralgia is a complication of shingles, which can cause pain long after the rash and blisters from shingles disappear.

Hung Fu Tseng, PhD, is the Principal Investigator for the study.

Scientific Accomplishments



Translating Findings into Practice

While the research cycle at many institutions ends once the research team has disseminated findings through a published paper, the focus of this department extends to translation of research into clinical practice. In some cases, findings are translated into practice within Kaiser Permanente Southern California before they have been disseminated to the community at large.

An intervention study led by **Stephen Derose, MD, MSHS**, found that patients with a new prescription for a statin medication were more likely to pick up their medication from the pharmacy when they received automated phone and mail reminders. Patients who received a reminder were 1.6 times more likely to pick up their prescription than those who did not.¹

Findings from this study were published online in November 2012. Well before that, clinical operations staff who had participated in the research team began building a regional outreach program to improve primary medication adherence for statins and other drugs. By the time the findings were published, Kaiser Permanente was sending more than 2,000 reminder letters a month to encourage patients to pick up their new prescriptions.

Partnerships between research scientists and front-line clinicians can be a particularly fruitful source of translatable findings. Working closely with scientists from the Department of Research & Evaluation, Regional Urology Chief **Ronald Loo, MD**, led a study of existing guidelines for evaluating patients with microscopic hematuria.²

The research team found that microscopic hematuria—blood found in the urine that can't be seen by the naked eye—does not necessarily indicate the presence of cancer. The findings suggest that tests routinely done on patients with this condition could be avoided. The research team also developed a screening tool to better diagnose certain types of cancer.

Using the evidence gathered through this study, Southern California Permanente Medical Group guidelines, which had been largely unchanged for two decades, were changed late in 2012. The study was published in *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* in early January 2013.

Breakthroughs that Change Lives: Clinical Trials in Southern California

Clinical trials advance innovation in medicine by evaluating new drugs, therapies, and devices to prevent and treat health problems. More than 65 physicians from the Southern California Permanente Medical Group served as Principal Investigators for clinical trials in 2012. By participating in clinical trials, physicians learn about new treatments as they are being developed.

Clinical trials also provide Kaiser Permanente members access to novel treatments that are not yet available to the general public. More than 1,500 Kaiser Permanente Southern California members had access to investigational drugs, devices, and procedures in 2012 through clinical trials programs in the region. There were 338 active clinical trials for a wide range of conditions, including HIV, stroke, and diabetes.

1 Derose SF, Green K, Marrett E, Tunceli K, Cheetham TC, Chiu VY, Harrison TN, Reynolds K, Vansomphone SS, Scott RD. Automated outreach to increase primary adherence to cholesterol-lowering medications. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2013 Jan 14;173(1):38-43. doi: 10.1001/2013.jamainternmed.717. PubMed PMID: 23403978.

2 Loo RK, Lieberman SF, Slezak JM, Landa HM, Mariani AJ, Nicolaisen G, Aspera AM, Jacobsen SJ. Stratifying risk of urinary tract malignant tumors in patients with asymptomatic microscopic hematuria. *Mayo Clin Proc* 2013; 88:129-38.

Advancing Treatments for Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C can have a profound impact on health. While many people live for years with the disease undiagnosed and without symptoms, hepatitis C can progress to cirrhosis, end-stage liver disease, and liver cancer.

Treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration are available to the public, but most have serious side effects and are difficult to tolerate. The treatments are expensive and don't work for everyone.

Through the clinical trials programs at Kaiser Permanente Southern California, members have the opportunity to participate in trials with new medications that have shown higher cure rates. The latest generation therapies have shorter treatment regimens and fewer side effects.

Over the past year, the Infectious Disease Research Program based at the Los Angeles Medical Center has cured almost 85 percent of patients enrolled in its hepatitis C clinical trials. Most patients received easy-to-tolerate, short-course, all-oral therapies.

The San Diego Hepatology Research Program has had similar success rates with their research studies. In 2012, the San Diego-based program had 12 active clinical trials, along with one observational study and one data analysis study. Eight of the studies opened in 2012.

The Infectious Disease Research Program at Los Angeles Medical Center, which had focused exclusively on HIV/AIDS clinical trials until 2011, added six new investigational drug studies in 2012.

William Towner, MD, is the Principal Investigator for the Infectious Disease Program. **Lisa Nyberg, MD**, and **Anders Nyberg, MD**, are the Principal Investigators for the San Diego Hepatology Research Program.

Featured Study: New Partnership Advances Pediatric Leukemia Treatment

In 2012, Kaiser Permanente Southern California was one of a handful of institutions selected to participate in a trial for a new drug to treat childhood leukemia. This trial is the first partnership between industry and the Children's Oncology Group, a National Cancer Institute-supported clinical trials group.

About 5 percent of children with leukemia test positive for the Philadelphia chromosome, a chromosomal abnormality associated with certain types of leukemia. This subtype of pediatric leukemia was very hard to treat until Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs), a drug class that inhibits cancer growth, became available.

This study will evaluate the effectiveness of dasatinib, a second-generation TKI, in combination with chemotherapy. When the first generation of TKIs became part of standard chemotherapy, it dramatically increased survival with chemotherapy alone without a bone marrow transplant.

In addition to advancing treatment for pediatric leukemia, this study offers a new model of future partnerships between industry and the Children's Oncology Group. Future collaborations with industry could help more children get access to novel targeted therapies. It could also encourage industry to support trials for agents that benefit children with rare malignancies.

Robert Cooper, MD, is the Principal Investigator for the Kaiser Permanente Southern California Pediatric Clinical Trials Program.

Advancing Access to Cancer Treatments through Clinical Trials

Established cancer clinical trials programs in Kaiser Permanente Southern California provide cancer patients with access to a wide range of treatment options. Clinical trials span oncology, surgery, radiation, gynecologic oncology, and bone marrow transplant. These programs offer access to drugs and therapies that are not yet available to the general public as they are being evaluated for efficacy.

Oncology Clinical Trials

The Cancer Clinical Trials Access Program oversees oncology trials for the prevention and treatment of cancer in adults. The program coordinates participation in dozens of cancer clinical trials each year. These trials provide access to novel therapies for a wide range of cancers, including breast, prostate, colon, lung, and pancreatic cancers.

The program is often a top recruiter for clinical trials. In 2012, it was named as a "Top-Accruing Affiliate Institution" by the Southwestern Oncology Group, or SWOG, a cooperative group within the National

Scientific Accomplishments

Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network. More than 230 Kaiser Permanente members participated in Cancer Clinical Trials Access Program studies during 2012.

Jonathan Polikoff, MD, and **Han Koh, MD**, are the Principal Investigators for Cancer Clinical Trials Access Program.

Surgery and Radiation Treatment for Cancer

The Surgical Radiation Oncology Clinical Trials Access Program manages clinical trial protocols for patients with cancer whose treatment involves surgical procedures or radiation treatment in addition to chemotherapy. It brings together clinicians from the specialties of surgery, radiation oncology, and gynecologic oncology. The program works with

cooperative research networks and industry-funded trials.

More than 70 Kaiser Permanente Southern California members participated in trials managed by the Surgical Radiation Oncology Clinical Trials Access Program in 2012.



Steven Vasilev, MD, is the Principal Investigator for the Surgical Radiation Oncology Clinical Trials Access Program.

Bone Marrow Transplant Programs

The Kaiser Permanente/City of Hope Blood and Marrow Transplant Research program provides Kaiser Permanente members access to bone marrow and stem-cell transplant treatment protocols at City of Hope National Medical Center. Physicians from the Southern California Permanente Medical Group provide care to members participating in this study. These protocols include trials that are transforming the way clinicians prevent treatment-related complications.

The program provided bone marrow transplants for 194 adults and 13 children in 2012. Nearly 1,200 members received long-term follow-up in Kaiser Permanente facilities.

Neil Kogurt, MD, and **Ricardo Spielberger, MD**, are the Principal Investigators for the Kaiser Permanente/City of Hope Blood and Marrow Transplant Research program.

Clinical Trials in Specialty Departments

In addition to studies conducted under the auspices of the five formal clinical trials programs, many are led by independent investigators throughout the region. In 2012, Clinical Trials were available in all of the following areas:

- Allergy
- Bariatrics
- Bone Marrow Transplant
- Cardiology
- Cardiovascular Surgery
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Endocrinology
- Emergency Medicine
- Genetics
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Hematology/Oncology
- Hepatology/Infectious Diseases
- Internal Medicine
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Obstetrics-Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Pediatric Endocrinology
- Pediatric Oncology
- Plastic Surgery
- Pulmonary
- Radiation Oncology
- Rheumatology
- Surgery
- Surgical Oncology
- Urology
- Urogynecology
- Vascular Surgery

Committing Internal Funds to Transformational Research

Kaiser Permanente provides substantial internal support for research, through direct funding for research projects as well as through funding for research administration and support services. Internal sources of research funding include Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefit program, the Southern California Permanente Medical Group's Regional Research Committee, the Center for Safety and Effectiveness Research, and the Garfield Memorial Fund.

The funds often give support to transformative research projects that might be difficult to fund through extramural sources but provide valuable insights into real-world problems.

Funding for Clinician Research Projects

Projects supported by the Regional Research Committee, for example, provide a means for clinicians to find answers to questions that arise directly from their day-to-day practice. The committee also provides guidance that helps new researchers shape better research projects and connects the researchers to biostatistical, programming, and research support staff.

Each year, the Regional Research Committee recognizes one clinician researcher through the Annual Physician Research Award. **John Sim, MD**, a nephrologist from Los Angeles Medical Center, received the 2012 award for a study that showed an association between vitamin D deficiency and anemia.

Operational Research Receives Support

Funding from the Southern California Permanente Medical Group provided support for two qualitative research studies in 2012 to address operational challenges raised by the medical group leadership.

David Glass, PhD, an operational research scientist, led both of these studies.

One study explored the factors that influence primary care physicians to join—or opt not to join—the Southern California Permanente Medical Group. The study specifically focused on primary care physicians. Findings from the study have been shared with the

medical group physician recruitment team so that they can adapt their strategy to maximize their success in a highly competitive segment of the job market.

The other study explored reasons that members chose to go to the emergency department or urgent care. Findings from the study suggested that members get various cues from the Kaiser Permanente system—some of which are intentional and some that are not—that point them to the emergency department when they might be better served in urgent care.

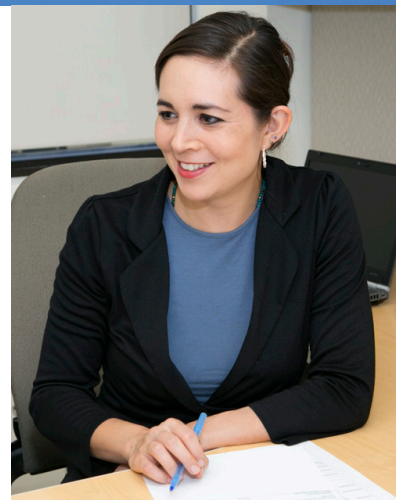
Innovating to Understand Genes, the Environment, and Health

One of the most ambitious internally funded research projects is the Research Program on Genes, Environment, and Health. Launched originally in Northern California, the project expanded to include Southern California in 2012.

The overall goal of the project is to develop a biorepository that will support research on the effects of both genetic and non-genetic biomarkers as well as environmental factors on health and disease. The project aims to recruit a half a million Kaiser Permanente members to participate. If they opt to join the study, they will be asked to provide either a blood or saliva sample to contribute their DNA. They will also be asked to complete a detailed survey.

Researchers seek to identify both genetic and non-genetic influences on people's susceptibility to diseases and their response to treatment. They will conduct research on the ethics involved in collecting and using genetic information in health care. As they uncover new knowledge with important health implications, they will translate these findings into clinical practice.

Corinna Koebnick, PhD, is the Principal Investigator for the Research Project on Genes, Health, and Environment in Kaiser Permanente Southern California.



Scientific Accomplishments

2012 Publications

Total Publications	330
First Author	170
Senior Author	105

The following is a sampling of findings published in 2012 with first authors from Kaiser Permanente Southern California. For a full list of publications from Kaiser Permanente Southern California, see the Bibliography of 2012 Publications on page 34.

Asthma and Allergy

People with asthma were more likely to follow recommendations for changes to their home environment when a counselor emphasized steps that similar patients had previously indicated a willingness to take. Homeowners were more likely to make changes to their environment than renters.³

Cancer

Women with the most common and least aggressive subtype of breast cancer were still at risk of death from the disease more than 10 years after diagnosis.⁴

Women who take tamoxifen in combination with an aromatase inhibitor or who take one of the two drugs alone have 50 percent less risk of breast cancer recurrence than woman who take neither drug.⁵

A new automated method using natural language processing accurately identified more than 95 lung nodules (96 percent sensitivity and 86 percent specificity) from text notes in Kaiser Permanente's electronic health record.⁶

Diabetes

Among youth with type 1 diabetes, lower quality of life is associated with higher levels of depressive symptoms and higher hemoglobin A1c levels, which puts them at risk for future diabetes-related complications. Girls, younger children, and youths with diabetes who take insulin by injection (versus pump) or with other medical conditions are more likely to have lower quality of life.⁷

Eye Health

Long-term statin use—more than five years—is protective against cataract surgery in younger patients. Short-term use of statins, however, is associated with an increased risk of surgery for both younger and older patients.⁸

Health Economics

Rheumatoid arthritis exerts substantial incremental economic burden on U.S. health care. In less than a decade, the primary cost driver for rheumatoid arthritis has shifted from hospital expenditure to pharmacy expenditure.⁹

3. Schatz M, Zeiger RS. Telephone-based environmental control interventions in asthmatic patients: What are patients willing to do? *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2012;109:99-102.

4. Haque R, Ahmed SA, Inzhakova G, Shi J, Avila C, Polikoff J, Bernstein L, Enger SM, Press MF. Impact of breast cancer subtypes and treatment on survival: an analysis spanning two decades. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2012;21:1848-1855.

5. Haque R, Ahmed SA, Fisher A, Avila CC, Shi J, Guo A, Craig Cheetham T, Schottinger JE. Effectiveness of aromatase inhibitors and tamoxifen in reducing subsequent breast cancer. *Cancer Med.* 2012;1:318-327. PMID: PMC3544463.

6. Danforth KN, Early MI, Ngan S, Kosco AE, Zheng C, Gould MK. Automated identification of patients with pulmonary nodules in an integrated health system using administrative health plan data, radiology reports, and natural language processing. *J Thorac Oncol.* 2012;7:1257-1262.

7. Lawrence JM, Yi-Frazier JP, Black MH, Anderson A, Hood K, Imperatore G, Klingensmith GJ, Naughton M, Mayer-Davis EJ, Seid M, SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth Study Group. Demographic and clinical correlates of diabetes-related quality of life among youth with type 1 diabetes. *J Pediatr.* 2012;161:201-207.

8. Fong DS, Poon KY. Recent statin use and cataract surgery. *Am J Ophthalmol.* 2012;153:222-228.e1.

9. Kawatkar AA, Jacobsen SJ, Levy GD, Medhekar SS, Venkatasubramaniam KV, Herrinton LJ. Direct medical expenditure associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a nationally representative sample from the medical expenditure panel survey. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken).* 2012;64:1649-1656.

Health Information Technology

A new Exercise Vital Sign initiative to systematically record patients' physical activity in Kaiser Permanente's electronic health records is successfully compiling accurate and valuable information that can help clinicians better treat and counsel patients about their lifestyles.¹⁰

Electronic health records and embedded tools can alert and direct pediatricians so they can better manage the weight of children and teenagers.¹¹

HIV/AIDS

Antiretroviral therapy exposure was generally not associated with non-AIDS-defining cancer risk for people infected with HIV. The drug class has similar protective benefits for AIDS defining cancers.¹²

Antiretroviral experienced patients failing with low-level viremia are at increased risk of death, despite comparable rates of AIDS diagnoses when compared with those who achieved maximal viral suppression.¹³

Obesity

Children and adolescents who are overweight or obese are more likely to have asthma than their

healthy weight counterparts. The study found that the association between asthma and body mass index varied by race and ethnicity.¹⁴

Children who are overweight or obese—particularly older, non-Hispanic white girls—are more likely to have a neurological disorder known as idiopathic intracranial hypertension, a rare condition that can result in blindness.¹⁵

Children who are overweight or obese also face an increased risk for gallstones.¹⁶

Orthopedic Care

The incidence of atypical fractures of the femur appears to increase with longer duration of bisphosphonate use. However, the rate is much lower than the expected rate of devastating hip fractures in elderly patients with osteoporosis.¹⁷

The benefit of potential long-term wear reduction of a low contact stress (LCS) knee implant may not be realized in a community-based setting, where a variety of surgical skills, surgical experience, and diverse patient demographic factors may affect early outcomes.¹⁸

10. Coleman KJ, Ngor E, Reynolds K, Quinn VP, Koebnick C, Young DR, Sternfeld B, Sallis RE. Initial validation of an exercise "vital sign" in electronic medical records. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 2012;44:2071-2076.

11. Coleman KJ, Hsui AC, Koebnick C, Alpern AF, Bley B, Yousef M, Shih EM, Trimble-Cox KJ, Smith N, Porter AH, Woods SD. Implementation of clinical practice guidelines for pediatric weight management. *J Pediatr.* 2012;160:918-922.e1.

12. Chao C, Leyden WA, Xu L, Horberg MA, Klein D, Towner WJ, Quesenberry CP, Abrams DI, Silverberg MJ. Exposure to antiretroviral therapy and risk of cancer in HIV-infected persons. *AIDS.* 2012;26:2223-2231.

13. Chao C, Tang B, Towner W, Silverberg MJ, Hurley L, Horberg M. Short-term clinical outcomes among treatment-experienced HIV-positive patients with early low level viremia. *AIDS Patient Care STDS.* 2012;26:253-255.

14. Black MH, Smith N, Porter AH, Jacobsen SJ, Koebnick C. Higher prevalence of obesity among children with asthma. *Obesity (Silver Spring).* 2012;20:1041-1047.

15. Brara SM, Koebnick C, Porter AH, Langer-Gould A. Pediatric idiopathic intracranial hypertension and extreme childhood obesity. *J Pediatr.* 2012;161:602-607.

16. Koebnick C, Smith N, Black MH, Porter AH, Richie BA, Hudson S, Gililand D, Jacobsen SJ, Longstreth GF. Pediatric obesity and gallstone disease. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2012;55:328-333.

17. Dell RM, Adams AL, Greene DF, Funahashi TT, Silverman SL, Eisemon EO, Zhou H, Burchette RJ, Ott SM. Incidence of atypical nontraumatic diaphyseal fractures of the femur. *J Bone Miner Res.* 2012;27:2544-2550.

18. Namba RS, Inacio MC, Paxton EW, Ake CF, Wang C, Gross TP, Marinac-Dabic D, Sedrakyan A. Risk of revision for fixed versus mobile-bearing primary total knee replacements. *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 2012;94:1929-1935.

Scientific Accomplishments

Publications | continued

Age, a patient's physical status, and anesthesia type are significant and independent risk factors for pulmonary embolism after primary total knee arthroplasty. Patients with severe systemic disease or who need surgery to survive are at significantly higher risk of pulmonary embolism, as are patients who received general anesthesia.¹⁹

Prevention and Behavior Change

Programs to promote healthy eating can substantially reduce the amount of unhealthy foods and beverages on school grounds if the programs focus on a school's specific needs and involve teachers, parents, staff, and administrators.²⁰

Men who were overweight or obese were less likely to be screened for prostate or colorectal cancer than their healthy weight counterparts. They were, however, more likely to be screened for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. They reported less healthy diets and much less physical activity.²¹

Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness

Gardasil®, the human papillomavirus vaccine that is recommended for male and female adolescents and young adults, does not trigger autoimmune conditions such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, type 1 diabetes, or multiple sclerosis after vaccination in young women.²²

The herpes zoster vaccine, also known as the shingles vaccine, is generally safe and well tolerated.²³

People who have had an episode of herpes zoster, also known as shingles, face a relatively low short-term risk of developing shingles again. These findings suggest that among people with immune systems that have not been compromised, the risk of a second shingles episode is low.²⁴

19. Khatod M, Inacio MC, Bini SA, Paxton EW. Pulmonary embolism prophylaxis in more than 30,000 total knee arthroplasty patients: Is there a best choice? *J Arthroplasty*. 2012;27:167-172.

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Department Accomplishments



Department Leadership

Director of Research **Steven Jacobsen, MD, PhD**, and Director of Research Administration **Sac Carreathers** work in partnership to lead a team of more than 200 people at the Department of Research & Evaluation.

Dr. Jacobsen has overall responsibility for the research enterprise in Kaiser Permanente Southern California. He leads the Department of Research & Evaluation's scientific team, which included more than two dozen research scientists in 2012. He also serves as a liaison with funders, university investigators, and research networks.

Sac Carreathers oversees the department's business units. His responsibilities include day-to-day operations management and long-term strategic planning. In his capacity as the regional Research Integrity Officer, he oversees compliance with federal regulations and institutional policies.

A Year of Rapid Growth

As the Kaiser Permanente Southern California research program expands, the scientific team and research staff has grown significantly. The table above to the right shows the increase from 2011 to 2012. The numbers only tell part of the story. As the headcount has grown, so has the scope and depth of expertise in the department.

Pasadena-Based Staff 2011-2012

	2011	2012
Scientists	22	25
Postdoctoral Fellows	3	5
Directors	2	2
Biostatisticians and Programmers	51	58
Research Support	39	45
Administrative Support	20	21
Research IT	15	16
Finance	28	31
Clinical Trials Regional Staff	9	14
Operations	3	4
Total	192	223

Expanding the Scientific Team

In 2012, the department recruited scientists with expertise in biostatistics, health services, and implementation science. Two full-time research scientists joined the department faculty in 2012:

- **John Adams, PhD**, is a Fellow in the American Statistical Association. His current research focuses on improving quantitative methods in quality assessment.
- **Huong Q. Nguyen, PhD, RN**, is the newest member of the department's growing health services research team. Her research includes the development and testing of technology-based interventions to encourage self-management of chronic conditions.

Brian Mittman, PhD, a nationally renowned expert in implementation science joined the department as a part-time adjunct faculty member in October 2012. He focuses on the organization and delivery of health care services and the development and application of strategies to improve health care quality and outcomes.

Bridging Research & Clinical Operations

Building and strengthening relationships between the research department and clinical operations is one of the highest priorities for the department. Physicians and staff at the frontlines of clinical operations are one of the best sources of clinically relevant questions. They are also essential partners in translating new findings into practice.

Clinical and Research Partnerships Pave Way to Innovation

Strong relationships between research and clinical operations can pave the way for innovative research projects. Several current studies have worked to forge new relationships with medical center physicians and staff in order to achieve study goals.

The MS Sunshine study team has partnered with neurology departments at 10 Kaiser Permanente Southern California medical centers. Physicians and staff at those locations support on-site study visits. The project—a case-control study that is evaluating vitamin D deficiency as a risk factor for MS in people with different racial and ethnic backgrounds—includes patients across a broad geographic region, from as far north as California’s Central Valley to as far south as Imperial County.

Partnerships can involve extensive interaction between research and clinical staff. In an ongoing safety study of the Menveo® vaccine, staff worked with department administrators, charge nurses, and pharmacy technicians at three medical centers to conduct a physical inventory of the vaccine supply. The team also provided in-person vaccine reconstitution training for nurses, employing a technique that minimized waste.

Supporting Clinician-Led Research Projects

Research scientists and staff play an important role in building relationships with clinical operations by partnering with clinicians to conduct research projects.

Research scientists from the Department of Research & Evaluation often collaborate with clinician researchers to pursue answers to clinically relevant questions. Recent clinician-scientist partnerships have led to publications on the effectiveness of breast cancer treatments in reducing subsequent cancers,



the likelihood of other health problems for children who are obese, and the incidence of atypical hip fractures in elderly people.

Staff provide significant support for clinician-led projects. In 2012, biostatisticians, programmers, and research support staff assisted with projects led by allergists, gynecologists, oncologists, nephrologists, ophthalmologists, and urologists based at medical centers throughout the region. More than 70 clinical trials staff, including project managers, research associates, and research nurses, supported Principal Investigators at 32 locations in the region.

For many clinicians, carving out time to participate in research can be a challenge. In addition to support in the conduct of research, the research department offers administrative support to clinician researchers for project-related business. In 2012, the Offsite Administrative Support Services team provided support to 15 physician researchers.

Registries for Research, Patient Care Management, and Clinical Quality

The Biostatistics, Programming, and Research Database Services team provides technical support for registries that follow patients who have received bariatric surgery, patients with HIV/AIDS, and patients with prostate cancer. These registries play a dual role, supporting research and clinical quality.

Registries can also accelerate translation of clinically relevant findings. For example, data gathered through a quality-of-life survey for patients with prostate cancer has been compiled in the prostate cancer registry. Information from the survey has been shared with the patients’ urologists in order to improve patient care. Research results based on the registry have been presented to the American Urological Association.

Department Accomplishments



Expanding Capabilities to Support Innovative Research

Expertise in Natural Language Processing

The department continues to build capabilities in natural language processing, which has been used to support innovative research projects and to advance clinical quality. Natural language processing uses step-by-step procedures, or algorithms, to scan written notes in electronic health records, searching for key words and phrases. This can detect important information that has not been captured by diagnostic or procedural codes.

Some recent applications of natural language processing include algorithms that achieve the following results:

- capturing HER2 test results for patients with breast cancer,
- retrieving spirometry results,
- extracting information about complications during pregnancy and labor,
- identifying cases of gout flares, and
- finding myeloma patients with disease progression.

While most of these algorithms have been developed with research purposes in mind, some have the potential to be used to improve patient safety and health care quality.

Research Applications and Databases

Application developers created a new membership model for the preliminary research application. This new capability will help researchers obtain the demographic profile of a patient cohort early in the development of a research project.

Database developers made improvements to the Virtual Data Warehouse, including the implementation of new programming logic to accelerate the retrieval of commonly used test types and building a new data mart to house medication ordering information. Developers also built updated geocoding files using 2010 Census files for neighborhood race and ethnicity and 2010 American Community Survey information on education and economic status.

Supporting Study Participation

Research Support staff play a significant role in recruiting and retaining study participants. Working closely with the Principal Investigators, Research Support staff handle critical operations from organizing mass mailings to conducting member surveys.

The Research Program on Genes, Environment and Health (RPGEH) aims to recruit half a million members from participating Kaiser Permanente regions. Study participants are asked to submit a saliva or blood sample for genetic analysis and complete a detailed survey.

In order to support the large-scale recruitment, the project team contracted with a vendor to mail out the initial recruitment package, scan consent forms, send out saliva kits, and manage the project's telephone hotline. The project started recruitment in October 2012. By the end of the year, the team had recruited more than 8,300 members, exceeding the target of 7,500.

Smaller studies can also have complex recruitment requirements. The Herpes Zoster study involves recruitment of patients recently diagnosed with shingles as well as a control group. The case participants are asked to consent to a home visit, complete three follow-up surveys, and keep a zoster symptom diary. In 2012, the study team received IRB approval and started recruitment. By the end of

the year, the team had completed 358 study visits with case participants and 123 phone interviews with control subjects.

Staff also play an important role in gathering information from participants who take part in long-term studies, such as the California Men's Health Study. In 2012, Kaiser Permanente Southern California conducted its third follow-up survey, sending out more than 35,000 surveys to participants. More than 20,000 men returned the surveys, about a 64 percent response rate.

Driving for Operational Efficiency in Research Administration

New Technology to Support Automation

As the research program has expanded in Southern California, it has outgrown many of the paper-based processes that supported the program in the past. In 2012, the research information team worked with several other groups to implement new technology that automates essential processes.

Throughout much of the year, the research staff worked together to develop the new iRIS system, which provides online support for clinical trials management and the Institutional Review Board process. While the Research IT group worked to develop the system, clinical trials staff contributed to hours of testing that laid the groundwork for user training and support. The system went live in December 2012.

Another important area of focus has been the automation of financial approval processes. In 2012, the department rolled out an online application for travel authorizations, replacing a process that had previously relied on paper forms.

Streamlined Grant Management

In 2012, the Research Finance and Sponsored Projects Administration worked with leadership to assess the grant submission and review process. This helped lay the groundwork for the implementation of a new grant management software program, InfoEd, slated for roll-out in 2013.



In 2012, the Sponsored Project Administration team supported 365 grant submissions and processed 238 awards. The team collaborated with the National Research Administrative Council to share best practices and implement more efficient processes for federal contracts. Additionally, the team negotiated several master agreements for industry contracts and developed standard language to protect KP data and intellectual property rights. Approximately 75 percent of all contracts were fully executed in less than 60 days.

Improved Recruitment Process

As the department has grown, so has the need to recruit talented and qualified staff with expertise ranging from biostatistics to research project management. The Recruitment & Retention Committee collaborated with the Kaiser Permanente Southern California Human Resources team to develop and roll out a new staff recruitment process. The new process provided tools to help managers and Human Resources collaborate to recruit, screen, and hire qualified candidates with greater expediency.

The Operations and Research Support managers also worked with Human Resources and staff from the Los Angeles Medical Center to develop standard procedures for onboarding summer research interns. The new procedures streamlined the process for physicians who bring on interns and volunteers to support research projects. The procedures also helped interns and volunteers have a better experience during their time at Kaiser Permanente.

Department Accomplishments

Administrative and Operational Efficiency

Several teams made changes in 2012 to provide better and more efficient support for the growing research program.

The Administrative Support Team developed a new centralized ordering system for the department, which significantly improved turnaround time. The team also restructured the management responsibilities, establishing a new supervisory position to oversee the Research Administrative Analysts.

The Operations unit brought together representatives from several units, including IT and the Administrative Support Team, to improve access to commonly used forms and templates. The team worked collaboratively to reorganize the content on the myR&E portal, a web-based library of research-related forms and resources.

Protecting the Integrity of Research

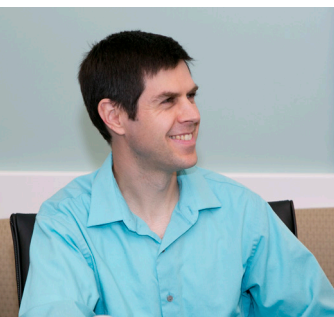
Part of any healthy research program is a foundation of policies and procedures to protect the integrity of research. In 2012, the Department of Research & Evaluation launched an online policy handbook to support research compliance.

The first policy published online established controls to safeguard access to research databases, applications, and IT systems. Other policies covering a wide range of topics, from research collaboration to intellectual property, were finalized in 2012.

Individual workgroups continued to refine procedures to better support the growing research department. The Regional Clinical Trials team, for example, revised a series of standard operating procedures covering

site operations, regulatory management, records retention, and other vital topics.

To support compliance within the clinical trials program, the Southern California team also established a Clinical Trials Quality & Compliance Committee. This committee oversees escalation of compliance issues as well as policy implementation.



Building a Brand Identity for Kaiser Permanente Research

In 2012, the National Research Council and the Kaiser Permanente Brand Strategy group officially introduced a new brand identity for research at Kaiser Permanente. The new brand strategy marked a significant departure from the past by building a cohesive brand for all research at Kaiser Permanente. Previous branding efforts had been driven by individual research centers.



The Research Communication team provided feedback that aided in the development of the new brand. The team also organized a series of presentations to audiences in Southern California about the new brand identity. The department began using the new brand identity for collateral in the fall of 2012.



Education & Development



As part of its commitment to the professional development of researchers and staff, the Department of Research & Evaluation sponsors regular educational activities. The primary venues include the Administrative Grand Rounds and the department Research Seminars.

Topics for the Administrative Grand Rounds in 2012 included:

- Translational Research at Kaiser Permanente Southern California
- Research Communications Plan
- The State of Research & Evaluation
- Sponsored Projects Administration & Finance
- Research Brand Positioning Project
- InfoEd
- Clinical Trials Quality and Compliance Program
- Kaiser Permanente Research Brand Toolkit
- Cancer Text Information Extraction System
- Office Professionalism
- myR&E Portal Refresh

Topics for the Research Seminars in 2012 included:

- Vaccine Safety
- Men's Health
- Childhood Obesity
- Health Equity
- Implementation Science
- Diabetes & Pregnancy
- Improving Pneumonia Care through Decision Support
- Risk Assessment Models
- Pregnancy and Adverse Outcomes

Department Committees

Many scientists and staff members contribute to the development of the research program through participation in committees. Some committees, such as the Regional Research Committee, also involve operational leaders and clinicians from the regional offices and local medical centers.

The department has more than a dozen committees that serve a wide range of functions, from establishing a biospecimen repository to recruiting scientists. Through committee participation, researchers and staff have a voice in shaping the future of the research program.

The committees in 2012 were:

- Academic Appointments and Promotions Committee
- Biospecimens Committee
- Communication & Web Committee
- Compliance Committee
- Data Quality Committee
- Education and Training Committee
- Executive Committee
- Regional Research Committee
- Scientist Recruiting Committee
- Senior Scientist Committee
- Staff Appreciation Committee
- Staff Recruiting and Retention Committee



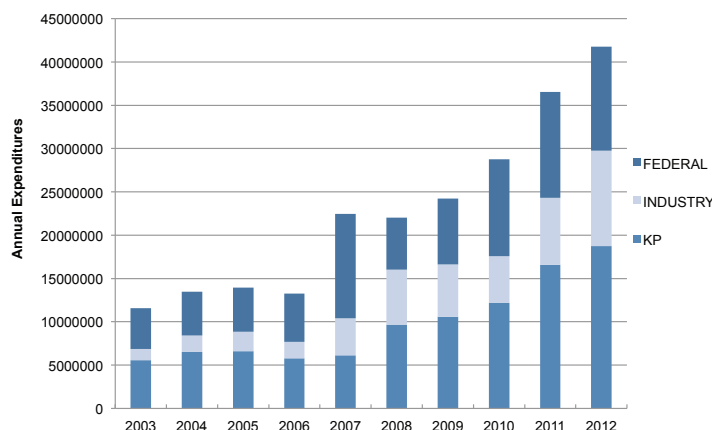
Funding Overview

Funding for research has increased rapidly in the past decade to support a growing portfolio of innovative and clinically relevant research.

Total research expenditures topped \$41.7 million in 2012, up from \$36.5 million in 2011. Federal grants contributed more than \$12 million to the total funding. Industry contracts totaled nearly \$11 million.

Kaiser Permanente provided the remaining funds. Internal funding sources included the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit program, the Southern California Permanente Medical Group, the Garfield Memorial fund, and the Center for Effectiveness and Safety Research.

Kaiser Permanente Southern California Research Program Financial Trend



New Grants and Awards

New grants and contracts awarded in 2012 will fund research at Kaiser Permanente Southern California over a period of years.

January - December 2012 Awards Overview

	Direct Costs	Indirect Costs	TOTAL
New Grants Awarded (all years)	\$16,784,615	\$7,190,146	\$23,974,761
Continued Grants (all years)	\$11,831,040	\$6,063,516	\$17,894,556
Supplements Awarded	\$187,052	\$116,948	\$304,000

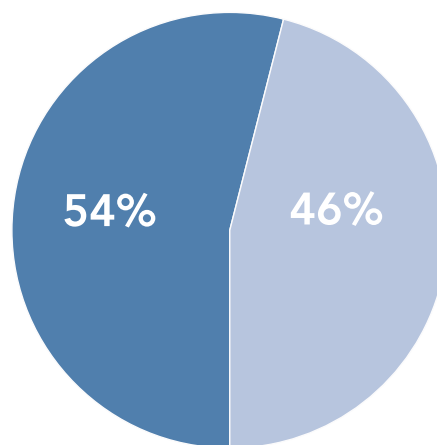
The department submitted 365 grant and contract applications in 2012 and processed 238 awards.

January - December 2012 Submissions Report

Grants Submitted	365
Grants Awarded	238
Pending Review	86

Kaiser Permanente Southern California was the lead institution, or "prime," for 54 percent of all the grants and contracts submitted in 2012, up from 50 percent in 2011. For the remaining submissions, Kaiser Permanente Southern California was the subcontractor institution.

Prime vs Subcontract Grant Proposals



In 2012, 54 percent of all proposals submitted included Kaiser Permanente Southern California as the primary institution.

Faculty Research Programs

Research Scientists



Annette L. Adams, PhD | Research Scientist I

Dr. Annette Adams is primarily involved in research on bone health and orthopedic injuries in older adults, particularly osteoporosis-related injuries of the hip and lower extremities. Much of her current work is focused on pharmacologic exposures and risk of fractures. Previously, she examined the association between pre-existing and comorbid conditions and surgical outcomes in patients undergoing total joint replacement. Dr. Adams' previous work included hospital-level influences on outcomes in trauma patients and older adults with orthopedic injuries, and the association between body mass index and orthopedic injuries in children.



John L. Adams, PhD | Research Scientist Biostatistician III

Dr. John Adams' research interests include statistical methods used for profiling managed care organizations, provider groups, and individual providers. His current work addresses improving quantitative methods in quality assessment and improving study design. He has participated in a wide range of research projects, including measuring the quality of care for adults and children in the United States, designing a national quality monitoring system for Medicare beneficiaries, and evaluating chronic care improvement interventions in Europe. Dr. Adams is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. His most recent research includes a federally funded project that evaluated the reliability of provider cost and quality profiles in Massachusetts.



Mary Helen Black, PhD | Research Scientist Biostatistician I

A biostatistician and genetic epidemiologist, Dr. Mary Helen Black focuses on the application and development of statistical methods in order to better understand the genetic architecture of gestational and type 2 diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. She also studies environmental influences and their complex interaction with genetic background. Her other research interests include comparative effectiveness, medication adherence, and pharmacogenetics studies aimed at improving outcomes in the treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Black is an adjunct professor of biological sciences at California State University, Los Angeles.



Chun Chao, PhD | Research Scientist I

Dr. Chun Chao's research interests include identification of risk and protective factors for cancer, identification of prognostic markers for cancer disease progression, identification of predictors for adverse events associated with cancer treatment, and the utilization of the human papillomavirus vaccine. She leads several cancer epidemiology projects that have an emphasis on non-Hodgkin lymphoma, HIV-related malignancies, and prostate cancer. She is particularly interested in survivorship and tissue-based research. Her current studies examine the protective factors for primary and secondary cancer prevention. Dr. Chao is an adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology at UCLA.

Individuals listed in this section were part of the Department of Research & Evaluation faculty at year-end 2012. Titles and other biographical content are based on 2012 information.



Craig Cheetham, PharmD, MS | Pharmacist

Dr. Craig Cheetham's research interests include drug and vaccine safety, medication adherence, health services research, and pharmaceutical outcomes. He has studied the safety of vaccines and medications for pregnant women. Dr. Cheetham has also researched the cardiovascular risks of medication, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder drugs and hormonal contraceptives. He is especially interested in research that can be translated into medical practice. Dr. Cheetham practiced hospital-based clinical pharmacy for nearly 20 years before moving into his current position as a researcher within the Pharmacy Analytical Services Department at Kaiser Permanente Southern California.



Karen J. Coleman, PhD | Research Scientist II

Dr. Karen Coleman is trained as a behavioral interventionist and has conducted several studies of interventions to reduce child obesity in school districts located in primarily minority, low-income areas. Dr. Coleman maintains a research and patient care registry of Kaiser Permanente Southern California members who have had weight loss surgery. She has several funded projects examining the impact of bariatric surgery on health outcomes. Dr. Coleman is also the lead investigator for Kaiser Permanente Southern California in the Mental Health Research Network funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Her specific interests in this area are cross-cultural mental health promotion and measurement as well as the role of mental illness and health in the etiology of child, adolescent, and adult obesity. Dr. Coleman is an adjunct associate professor at San Diego State University's Graduate School of Public Health and the University of Southern California's Department of Preventive Medicine.



Kim N. Danforth, ScD | Research Scientist I

Dr. Kim Danforth's primary interest is to use research to answer health questions with real-world significance. She has broad interests in health research and has studied a wide range of risk factors for ovarian, prostate, lung, bladder, endometrial, and colorectal cancers. These factors have included self-reported lifestyle factors, circulating markers, and genetic variation. She has conducted prospective, nested case-control, and cross-sectional studies in the context of several large cohort studies. Dr. Danforth is also involved in health services and outcomes-based research.



Stephen F. Derose, MD, MSHS | Research Scientist I

Dr. Stephen Derose's research focuses on primary and secondary prevention of chronic disease at the individual and population levels. He uses a variety of research methods to address questions regarding clinical care delivery and outcomes. During his recent sabbatical year, Dr. Derose completed a fellowship on sleep medicine. His other areas of interest include sleep disorders, chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, and emergency department outcomes.

Faculty Research Programs



Darios Getahun, MD, PhD | Research Scientist II

Dr. Darios Getahun's current research focus and interests include population-based studies related to perinatal and child health issues, successive pregnancy outcomes, fetal origin of childhood diseases, asthma morbidity and mortality, and health disparities. He studies the heritability of various adverse perinatal outcomes among singleton and multiple births to examine the contribution of genetic and shared intrauterine factors. He is also a co-investigator on the research team that is exploring the impact of medication use in pregnancy on adverse perinatal outcomes in Kaiser Permanente members. Dr. Getahun is a clinical assistant professor of obstetrics-gynecology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.



David Glass, PhD | Operational Research Scientist III

Dr. David Glass' research interests include the decision-making processes of members, patients, and doctors on a variety of health care and delivery system issues. He uses qualitative and quantitative methods to understand how knowledge, beliefs, values, perceptions, emotions, and environment play a role in individual and group decisions. His research interests include the relationship of health and productivity in the work setting; how incentives and social networks can reduce obesity of a defined population; how patients and doctors evaluate complex episodes of care; how primary care physicians make career choices; how patients choose among various sites for care; and how end-of-life preferences and experiences among patients and doctors can be systematically captured and acted upon.



Michael K. Gould, MD, MS | Assistant Director for Health Services and Implementation Research

Dr. Michael Gould uses the tools of meta-analysis, decision analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and large database analysis to examine multiple dimensions of health care quality—including safety, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and timeliness of care—for people with lung cancer, venous thromboembolism, and respiratory disease. His other interests include the development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines and the use of computerized decision-support systems to improve the quality of care. Dr. Gould is a research associate professor of medicine at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.



Reina Haque, PhD | Research Scientist II

Dr. Reina Haque is a senior cancer epidemiologist whose research interests include pharmacoepidemiology, cancer screening, and molecular markers for prognosis and cancer survivorship. She has led studies on breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer. Her studies have examined the incidence, treatment, recurrence, and pathology of cancer as well as pharmaceutical use in cancer treatment. She is leading a multi-site study that examines common drug interactions in a large cohort of breast cancer survivors. Dr. Haque also serves as the scientific advisor for the Kaiser Permanente Southern California tumor registry.



Steven J. Jacobsen, MD, PhD | Director of Research

Dr. Steven Jacobsen is a chronic disease epidemiologist by training. He has been the Site Principal Investigator for the Kaiser Permanente Southern California Vaccine Safety DataLink since 2007. He recently led two large, pivotal post-licensure vaccine safety studies. He served as the lead epidemiologist for a variety of population-based studies, including studies of prostate disease, vaccine safety and immunogenetics, rheumatoid arthritis, and many chronic diseases. He has authored or co-authored more than 400 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has served on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Epidemiology* since 1997 and for *Vaccine* since 2011. He is a research professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.



Aniket A. Kawatkar, PhD | Research Scientist I

Dr. Aniket Kawatkar's research interests are in health inequity and disparities, health care and pharmaceutical utilization, and the associated economic, clinical, and humanistic outcomes. He uses established methods of econometrics, cost-effectiveness, conjoint analysis, and net-benefit analysis to evaluate interventions and treatments aimed at improving patient care in real-world clinical settings. Dr. Kawatkar's research focuses on comparative effectiveness, medication compliance and persistence, cost and expenditure data modeling, health-related quality-of-life issues, and health utility elicitation in chronic diseases.



Corinna Koebnick, PhD | Research Scientist II

Dr. Corinna Koebnick's primary research interests include investigating the health consequences of obesity in children and young adults and improving health services for young people with obesity-related conditions. The health consequences include conditions that are associated with chronic inflammation, increased cardiovascular disease risk, metabolic syndrome, and some cancers. Dr. Koebnick also leads the Kaiser Permanente Southern California Research Program on Genes, Environment, and Health. This program includes a large biobank resource that will link comprehensive electronic medical records, relevant behavioral and environmental factors, and information on genetic and non-genetic biomarkers from consenting health plan members. The program is designed to identify genetic and non-genetic factors involved in the pathogenesis of health conditions as well as in the determination of treatment modalities that can improve care and disease outcomes.



Annette M. Langer-Gould, MD, PhD | Research Scientist I

Dr. Annette Langer-Gould is a practicing neurologist at Kaiser Permanente's Los Angeles Medical Center. Her research interests include multiple sclerosis, neuroepidemiology, prognosis of chronic diseases, novel randomized controlled clinical trial designs, and the role of biomarkers and surrogate outcomes in clinical research. She has conducted studies on pregnancy and the modulation of multiple sclerosis. Dr. Langer-Gould is currently conducting a study on the role of vitamin D and genotype on the risk of developing multiple sclerosis. She is an associate clinical professor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.

Faculty Research Programs



Jean M. Lawrence, ScD, MSSA | Research Scientist III

Dr. Jean Lawrence's primary research topics include type 1 and type 2 diabetes in children, adolescents, and young adults as well as gestational diabetes mellitus. She is Principal Investigator for the SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth Study California Center in which she focuses on the incidence and prevalence of type 1 and type 2 diabetes in children and the impact of diabetes on quality of life. Dr. Lawrence is also the Site Principal Investigator for the SUPREME-DM study and a Field Center Principal Investigator for the Hyperglycemia and Adverse Pregnancy Outcome (HAPO) Follow-Up Study. Her work examines the care that women receive after a gestational diabetes mellitus pregnancy and how this affects future risk for type 2 diabetes. Dr. Lawrence is a research associate professor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.



Marlene M. Lugg, DrPh | Research Scientist I

Dr. Marlene Lugg's research interests are primarily in three areas: the study of immunization practices, quality, and vaccine safety; development of health information systems, including data linkage and immunization tracking systems (registries); and the causes and control of accidental injury. Dr. Lugg is an adjunct professor in health care administration at West Coast University in Los Angeles, California.



Elizabeth A. McGlynn, PhD | Director, Kaiser Permanente Center for Effectiveness and Safety Research

Dr. Elizabeth McGlynn is responsible for the strategic direction and scientific oversight of the Center for Effectiveness and Safety Research (CESR), an inter-regional research center designed to investigate the diagnosis and treatment strategies that work best for Kaiser Permanente members. She is an internationally known expert on methods for evaluating the appropriateness, quality, and efficiency of health care delivery. She has led major initiatives to evaluate health care reform options under consideration at the federal and state levels. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine and serves on several boards and national advisory committees.



Brian S. Mittman, PhD | Senior Scientist

Dr. Brian Mittman focuses on the organization and delivery of health care services and the development and application of quality and outcome improvement strategies. His work is guided by theories and insights from the fields of implementation science and health care quality improvement research. He is involved in a variety of efforts to further develop and strengthen the field of implementation science and to facilitate more effective collaborations between researchers, policy leaders, and practice leaders. Dr. Mittman is a senior advisor with the VA Center for Implementation Practice and Research Support, a senior advisor with RAND Health, and is affiliated with the UCLA School of Medicine's Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research, the UCLA Institute for Innovation in Health, and the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute.



Huong Q. Nguyen, PhD, RN | Research Scientist II

Dr. Huong Nguyen is trained in bio-behavioral nursing research in chronically ill adults and older adults, applied informatics, and behavioral epidemiology. Her research is primarily centered on two areas. The first area is developing and testing technology-supported interventions to activate and motivate collaborative self-management, improve physical activity, and reduce depressive symptoms in older adults with chronic conditions. The second area is understanding genetic, physiological, psychosocial, and ecological determinants of self-management and behavior change.



Virginia P. Quinn, PhD | Research Scientist II

Dr. Virginia Quinn is a behavioral health and health services researcher. Her research focus includes the development and testing of interventions for changing diet, physical activity, smoking, and adherence to medications and medical treatment in diverse patient populations and families. She is the Kaiser Permanente Southern California Site Principal Investigator for the National Cancer Institute-funded Cancer Research Network. Her interests in cancer research include prevention, screening, quality of life, quality of care, and survivorship.



Kristi Reynolds, PhD | Research Scientist I

Dr. Kristi Reynolds is a chronic disease epidemiologist whose primary research interests are in the etiology, prevention, and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Her research has focused on lifestyle interventions to prevent hypertension; risk factors for obesity, diabetes, end-stage renal disease, hypertension and stroke; and cardiovascular disease surveillance. Her current research has expanded to examine methods of measuring medication adherence, reasons for primary nonadherence to prescribed medication therapy, and health care interventions to improve medication adherence. She is the Site Principal Investigator on several multi-center studies funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality. Dr. Reynolds serves on the *Journal of Hypertension* editorial board and is a member of the planning committee of the American Heart Association Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke program.



Hung Fu Tseng, PhD | Research Scientist III

Dr. Hung Fu Tseng's research interests include utilization of large data resources to study vaccine effectiveness and post-marketing surveillance of adverse effects of vaccines and outcomes research of vaccines in real-world settings. Dr. Tseng has received research funding from the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Food and Drug Administration, and vaccine manufacturers. He is the Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health-funded study to evaluate the reactivation potential of the shingles vaccine. He led three Vaccine Safety Datalink studies funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Tseng is also the Principal Investigator for a Phase IV clinical trial that is assessing the safety of a meningococcal vaccine.

Faculty Research Programs



Anny Hui Xiang, PhD | Research Scientist Biostatistician III

Dr. Anny Xiang is an investigator and applied biostatistician who uses statistical methodologies to understand disease development and conduct clinical trials in disease prevention and intervention. Her research interests include diabetes, gestational diabetes, and obesity. She focuses on short- and long-term outcomes of children whose mothers have those conditions as well as on racial and ethnic disparities in risks for those conditions. Additional research interests include methodological investigation of biostatistical questions; collaborative investigations of etiology, biology, and risk factors for disease development; and design of clinical trials to assess treatment and intervention efficacy/safety and effectiveness. Dr. Xiang is an adjunct research associate professor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.



Deborah Rohm Young, PhD, MBA | Research Scientist III

Dr. Deborah Rohm Young's research interests are in the conduct of community-based physical activity intervention trials—specifically for minority women and adolescent girls, segments of the population that suffer the most profound health consequences of an inactive lifestyle. She also studies how physical inactivity and excess sedentary time are associated with cardiovascular risk and risk factors. Her emerging research areas involve ascertaining how food marketing targeted to African-American communities may contribute to the disproportionate burden of obesity and how partnerships can be formed with communities to halt this practice. She is also interested in identifying predictors of ideal cardiovascular health. Dr. Young is a visiting professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

Post-Doctoral Research Fellows



Rulin C. Hechter, MD, PhD | Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Dr. Rulin Hechter's research focuses mainly on HIV and other infectious diseases, including the issues of vaccine uptake, safety and effectiveness, and care delivery. She is also interested in HIV infection-associated cardiovascular disease and aging, interventions to address disparity in HIV treatment retention and adherence, and the impact of psychiatric disorders on engagement in HIV care. She is the Principal Investigator of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded study to evaluate treatment response among the HIV-syphilis co-infected population.



Kimberly Porter, PhD | Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Dr. Kimberly Porter's interests include various aspects of cancer research, such as epidemiology and prevention, outcomes and survivorship, epidemiologic methods, and health disparities. Her research focus at Kaiser Permanente is prostate cancer. Her recent projects include racial/ethnic differences in time to treatment, the accuracy of cancer diagnosis dates from pathology reports and electronic health records compared to Kaiser Permanente Southern California's cancer registry, and health-related quality of life issues. Dr. Porter is also interested in the treatment decision-making process for prostate cancer among different racial and ethnic groups.



Sara Tartof, PhD | Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Dr. Sara Tartof is a molecular and infectious disease epidemiologist with particular interest and experience in vaccine-preventable diseases and hospital-acquired infections. She is a co-investigator on the Vaccine Safety Datalink where she leads a project on febrile convulsions. Other projects she leads include evaluating duration of immunity and vaccine effectiveness of DTaP and Tdap, identifying risk factors for shingles and clostridium difficile, evaluation of prevention strategies for clostridium difficile, evaluating the effects of shingles vaccination on post-herpetic neuralgia. Dr. Tartof's past experience includes conducting and leading outbreak and other field investigations in the United States and internationally as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer.



Lauren P. Wallner, PhD | Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Dr. Lauren Wallner's research interests include understanding the determinants, outcomes, and utilization of health services associated with cancer and other chronic diseases. Specifically, her research focuses on improving the quality of care for men with benign and malignant urologic conditions such as prostate cancer, urinary incontinence, and benign prostatic hyperplasia. Her recent projects include identifying prostate cancer outcomes associated with the treatment and management of benign urologic conditions, understanding the health care utilization of prostate cancer survivors, characterizing the accuracy and utilization of prostate cancer screening, and determining the factors associated with prostate cancer mortality.

Adjunct Investigators

Somjot S. Brar, MD, MPH | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Somjot Brar's research interests include the role of medical devices and medications in the management of patients with cardiovascular diseases. He studies the comparative effectiveness of medical devices, strategies, and medications for the management of coronary artery disease and related outcomes. Dr. Brar is also interested in predictors, outcomes, and therapies for contrast medium-induced nephropathy, rare cardiomyopathies, and meta-analysis and decision-making processes in cardiovascular medicine.

Sirichai Chayasirisobhon, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Sirichai Chayasirisobhon's interests include research into the mechanism of refractory epilepsy, the use of vagus nerve stimulation for epilepsy, and clinical trials of new antiepileptic drugs.

Robert Clemons, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Robert Clemons' research interests include disorders of puberty, diabetes care, and continuous glucose monitoring.

R. James Dudl, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. James Dudl's research interests include population-level cardiovascular disease prevention. He also studies glucose control in patients with diabetes.

Faculty Research Programs

Vincent J. Felitti, MD | Adjunct Investigator

For the past 17 years, Dr. Vincent Felitti has been Co-Principal Investigator for the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, a cohort study of the prevalence and long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences in 17,400 adult Kaiser Permanente members. The study has produced more than 70 publications to date.

George F. Longstreth, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. George Longstreth's research interests include gastrointestinal epidemiology, functional gastrointestinal disorders, acute large bowel ischemia, diverticulitis, celiac disease, and medical anthropology. He is a voluntary clinical professor of medicine in the internal medicine program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.

S. Michael Marcy, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Michael Marcy's research interests include vaccine efficacy and safety, management of infectious diseases in office practice, and appropriate and judicious use of antimicrobials.

Richard M. Roth, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Richard Roth's research interests include various manifestations of asthma, including its diagnosis and evaluation.

David A. Sacks, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. David Sacks' current research interests include consequences of maternal obesity, the establishment of norms for defining gestational diabetes, and the maternal and fetal consequences of early delivery for women who have diabetes.

Mitsuo Tomita, MD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Mitsuo Tomita's research assesses the value of various approaches to improving care, including interactive patient groups with other modalities. Specific research interests include the contributions of continuing medical education, the clinical effectiveness of complementary medicine, and the value of understudied primary care practices.

Michael Schatz, MD, MS | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Michael Schatz's current research interests include patient-centered asthma outcomes, risk stratification for asthma population management, asthma quality-of-care measures, and the interrelationships of asthma and pregnancy.

Robert S. Zeiger, MD, PhD | Adjunct Investigator

Dr. Robert Zeiger's research interests include prevention of asthma and allergic disorders, clinical asthma trials of comparative treatments, cost analysis of asthma and allergic disorders, and outcomes research. He is deputy editor of *The Journal of Allergy Clinical Immunology: In Practice*.





Connecting Scientific and Clinical Expertise

Bibliography of 2012 Publications

In 2012, researchers and clinicians from Kaiser Permanente Southern California published 330 scholarly articles. Of these, 170 were first-author papers and 105 were senior-author papers. Kaiser Permanente Southern California first and senior authors are noted in **bold**.

Allergy and Asthma

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