

Faculty Research Interests

Kaiser Permanente is an innovator in using research to find answers to important questions and use that knowledge to improve clinical practices, care delivery, and health outcomes. Researchers at Kaiser Permanente Southern California have a wide range of expertise. Scientists partner with clinicians to identify clinically relevant questions and bring findings into clinical practice.

For more information about research at Kaiser Permanente Southern California, visit kp.org/research.

RESEARCH SCIENTISTS

Annette L. Adams, PhD, MPH

- Osteoporosis.
- Injuries and outcomes in older adults.
- Orthopaedic and sports injury epidemiology.

John L. Adams, PhD

- Statistical methods.
- Study design.
- Comparative effectiveness research.
- Program evaluation.
- Safety monitoring.

Mary Helen Black, PhD, MS

- Environmental and genetic epidemiology of childhood obesity and diabetes.
- Gene and gene-environment influences that underlie gestational diabetes, type 2 diabetes, and diabetes-related quantitative traits.
- Pharmacogenetics of diabetes treatment.
- Methodological development in statistical genetics.

Chun Chao, PhD, MS

- HIV disease and malignancies.
- Alcohol use and risk of cancer.
- Metabolic abnormality and risk of cancer.
- Uptake of the human papillomavirus vaccine.

Craig Cheetham, PharmD, MS

- Vaccine safety and effectiveness.
- Drug safety and drug safety surveillance.
- Health services research.
- Safety of drugs in pregnancy.

Karen Coleman, PhD, MS

- Health disparities.
- Latino health promotion.
- Child and adult obesity.
- Bariatric surgery.
- Community-based participatory research.

Kim Danforth, ScD, MPH

- Cancer epidemiology and prevention.
- Health services and comparative effectiveness research.

Stephen Derose, MD, MS

- Population health care management of chronic diseases.
- Ambulatory care, primary prevention, and secondary prevention.
- Chronic kidney disease, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.
- Sleep disorders.

Darios Getahun, MD, PhD, MPH

- Population-based studies related to perinatal and child health issues.
- Successive pregnancy outcomes.
- Health disparities.
- Asthma morbidity and mortality.
- Fetal origin of childhood diseases.
- Perinatal risk factors and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

David Glass, PhD

- Member/patient decision-making and behavioral models.
- Health and productivity measurement and models for employees.
- Employer on-site medical offices.
- Patient decisions on sites of care.
- Primary care physician career choices.
- End-of-life issues and advance directives: Member and doctor perspectives and behaviors.

Michael Gould, MD, MS

Assistant Director for Health Services Research

- Effectiveness of tests for lung cancer screening, diagnosis, and staging.
- Quality of care in thoracic oncology, including safety, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, timeliness, and patient-centeredness.
- Diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of venous thromboembolism.
- Meta-analysis, decision analysis, and cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Observational studies and multivariable statistical modeling.
- Development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines.

Reina Haque, PhD, MPH

- Detection and screening for cancer.
- Broad areas of cancer epidemiology, including molecular markers of fatal prostate cancer.
- Health effects of contaminated drinking water.
- Pharmaceuticals and cancer risk.
- Pharmacoepidemiology and breast cancer.

Sharon M. Hudson, PhD

- Medical adherence.
- Cultural influences on health behaviors.
- Behavioral interventions.
- Community-based participatory research.
- Mixed methods research.

Steven J. Jacobsen, MD, PhD

Director of Research

Kaiser Permanente Southern California

- Men's urologic health.
- Vaccine effectiveness and safety.
- Cardiovascular diseases.
- Developmental disorders.
- Research integrity and responsible conduct of research.

Aniket A. Kawatkar, PhD, MS

- Pharmaceutical and health econometrics.
- Cost effectiveness, cost utility, cost benefit, willingness to pay, and conjoint analysis.
- Treatment/intervention evaluation.
- Methods in selection bias/endogeneity and expenditure data modeling.
- Health utility elicitation.
- Health-related quality of life.

Corinna Koebnick, PhD, MSc

- Childhood and early adulthood obesity.
- Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.
- Dietary fiber, polyphenols, and the metabolic syndrome.
- Physical activity, body weight, and cancer risk.
- Gut and adipose tissue hormones.

Annette M. Langer-Gould, MD, PhD, MS

- Multiple sclerosis.
- Neuroepidemiology.
- Prognosis of chronic diseases.
- Novel randomized controlled clinical trial designs.
- Role of biomarkers and surrogate outcomes in clinical research.

Jean M. Lawrence, ScD, MPH, MSSA

- Maternal and child health.
- Diabetes in children, adolescents, and young adults.
- Depression/quality of life among youth and young adults with diabetes.
- Epidemiology and outcomes associated with gestational diabetes.
- Genetics of diabetes.
- Preconception counseling and care for women with chronic health conditions.
- Low birth weight, infant mortality, and adverse perinatal outcomes.

Marlene Lugg, DrPH, MPH

- Immunization practices, quality, and safety.
- Development of health information systems, including data linkage and immunization tracking systems (registries).
- Causes and control of accidental injury.

Elizabeth McGlynn, PhD

Director, Kaiser Permanente

Center for Effectiveness and Safety Research

- Comparative effectiveness research.
- Quality of medical care for adults and children.
- Effectiveness of policies to reduce health care spending.
- Analysis of policy options for increasing access to medical care services.
- Quality measurement methods.
- Measuring the efficiency of care delivery.
- Quality improvement methods.
- Translation of research into clinical practice.
- Translation of research into policy making.

Brian Mittman, PhD

- Implementation science and quality improvement research.
- Health care delivery science; delivery system organization and performance.
- Patient-centered outcomes research.
- Patient and stakeholder engagement and research-operations partnerships.

Huong Q. Nguyen, PhD, RN

- COPD collaborative care and self-management.
- Physical activity monitoring and interventions.
- Depression: biological causes, functional consequences, and behavioral treatments.
- Palliative care models.
- Healthy aging.
- Information and communication technologies to support self-care.

Virginia Quinn, PhD, MPH

- Lifestyle and health behavior change (smoking, diet, physical activity, and motivational interviewing counseling).
- Cancer prevention, screening, and adherence to treatment.
- Psychosocial treatment among women with breast cancer.
- Quality of cancer care.
- Adolescents and depression.

Kristi Reynolds, PhD, MPH

- Chronic disease epidemiology.
- Prevention, etiology and treatment of diabetes, obesity, end-stage renal disease, hypertension, and stroke.
- Meta-analysis.
- Medication adherence.

Adam L. Sharp, MD, MS

- Implementation Science.
- Translation of evidence into acute care clinical practice.
- Emergency Medicine health services research.
- Care coordination.
- Emergency provider hospital admission practices.
- Cost analysis.

William Towner, MD

- Physician Director of Clinical Trials
Kaiser Permanente Southern California
- Infectious disease clinical trials.
 - HIV and hepatitis C.
 - Complex chronic disease management.

Hung Fu Tseng, PhD, MPH

- Vaccine safety and effectiveness.
- Infectious diseases surveillance.
- Cancer epidemiology.
- Genetic epidemiology.

Anny Hui Xiang, PhD, MS

- Biostatistics: Application and problem solving for clinical studies.
- Design and data analysis in clinical trials.
- Pathogenesis and risk factors of diabetes development.
- Diabetes and obesity prevention.
- Long-term metabolic effect of hormonal contraceptives on women's health.
- Gestational diabetes and short- and long-term impact to women and offspring.

Deborah Rohm Young, PhD, MBA

- Physical activity and cardiovascular disease risk factors.
- Community-based physical activity/obesity prevention trials.
- Targeted food marketing to minority youth.
- African-American cardiovascular health.

ADJUNCT INVESTIGATORS**Somjot S. Brar, MD, MPH**

- Outcomes related to medical devices.
- Pharmacoepidemiology.
- Meta-analysis.
- Peripheral arterial diseases, including critical limb ischemia.
- Epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and risk factors.
- Outcomes following endovascular interventions.

Sirichai Chayasirisobhon, MD

- Mechanism of refractory epilepsy.
- Vagus nerve stimulation for epilepsy.
- Clinical trials of new antiepileptic drugs.

R. James Dudl, MD

- Cardiovascular disease prevention.
- Diabetes complication prevention.
- Glucose control for patients with diabetes.
- Self-care for diabetes.

Vincent J. Felitti, MD

- Hemochromatosis.
- Obesity.
- Relevance of childhood experiences to adult health and well-being.

George F. Longstreth, MD

- Irritable bowel syndrome.
- Acute lower bowel ischemia.
- Acute diverticulitis.
- Gastrointestinal epidemiology.

S. Michael Marcy, MD

- Vaccine efficacy and safety.
- Management of infectious diseases in office practice.
- Appropriate and judicious use of antimicrobials.

Richard Roth, MD

- Childhood asthma and prevention.
- Comparative effectiveness of clinical tests to monitor asthma and predict outcomes.

David Sacks, MD

- Screening for gestational diabetes.
- Diabetes during and after pregnancy.
- Prevention of gestational diabetes.

Michael Schatz, MD

- Asthma outcomes.
- Quality-of-life measures for asthma.
- Asthma and pregnancy.

Mitsuo Tomita, MD

- Continuing medical education.
- Effectiveness of complementary medicine.

Robert Zeiger, PhD, MD

- Prevention of asthma and allergic disorders.
- Clinical trials of asthma treatments.
- Outcomes research.

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

Nirupa R. Ghai, PhD, MPH

- Cancer epidemiology.
- Health disparities.
- Cancer prevention and screening.
- Lifestyle and health behavior change.

Erin E. Hahn, PhD, MPH

- Quality of cancer care.
- Implementation of clinical practice guidelines and evidence-based medicine practices.
- Patient and provider perceptions of care delivery.
- Adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancers.
- Health outcomes and health services utilization of cancer survivors; cancer survivorship care.

Rulin Hechter, MD, PhD

- Vaccine safety and effectiveness.
- Uptake of childhood and adult vaccines.
- Evaluation of novel interventions to advance HIV prevention and care.
- Racial and social disparities in health care utilization among HIV-infected patients.

Kimberly R. Porter, PhD, MPH

- Cancer epidemiology.
- Outcomes and survivorship research.
- Health disparities.
- Epidemiologic methods.

Sara Yee Tartof, PhD, MPH

- Vaccine safety and effectiveness.
- Duration of protection of vaccines.
- Molecular epidemiology.
- Prevention of hospital-acquired infections.