

HPRC Receives Funding to Continue as a National Prevention Research Center



Left to right: Principal Investigator Mark Snowden, HPRC Director and Principal Investigator Peggy Hannon, and HPRC Research Scientist and Core Research Project Director Lesley Steinman

Core Research: Improving Equity in Depression Care for Older Americans by Expanding the Reach of PEARLS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will once again fund HPRC as part of the Prevention Research Center (PRC) Program.

With \$3.75 million over five years, HPRC will conduct research on healthy aging, including core research to expand an evidence-based treatment for late-life depression known as the [Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives \(PEARLS\)](#).

"The PRC Program supports our vital research, including providing effective programs to underserved communities who need them most," said HPRC Director and Principal Investigator Peggy Hannon. "A critical component of this work is engaging with community members and the organizations that serve them so that we can ensure the programs fit community needs. Our funding also supports these essential partnerships, which will inform every aspect of our new research project."

For the core research project, HPRC will study how to better connect underserved older adults with PEARLS, a program that combines education about depression, coordination with primary care physicians, and skill building for better self-sufficiency. The study's priority populations are older adults who are experiencing poverty, are community members of color, have limited English proficiency, and/or live in rural areas.

Researchers plan to reach these populations by partnering with additional organizations that are already working within these communities. More than 70 organizations currently offer PEARLS, and researchers aim to have nearly 80 new organizations actively seeing PEARLS participants within three years.

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CDC Special Interest Projects

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is funding HPRC with \$3.14 million over five years to participate in Special Interest Projects with two national research networks — one focusing on cancer screening and the other on epilepsy self-management.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Improving the Fight Against Cancer

UW and HPRC will be part of a new center, the Optimizing Implementation in Cancer Control Center, which recently received a five-year, \$4.78 million grant from the National Institute of Health's National Cancer Institute.

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Population Health Building Named After Swedish Physician

The late Hans Rosling is known internationally for his captivating analysis of global health data, among other accomplishments. HPRC will move into the building after construction is completed by fall 2020.

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MORE NEWS COMING SOON!

We wrapped up the last five-year CDC PRC funding cycle at the end of September. The cycle included our core research project, known as PT-REFER, which involved outreach to physical therapists to encourage them to refer their older adult patients to EnhanceFitness, a group exercise and fall prevention program. We are pulling together results from that project — and others — to share with you.



Community Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, Oct. 25 | 8:45 a.m. – Noon (PST)
[Tukwila Community Center](#)
[12424 42nd Avenue S](#)

Upcoming Seminar

Core Research & PEARLS
Thursday, Nov. 14 | 10 – 11 a.m. (PST)

Presenters: Mark Snowden, Amanda Parrish, and Caitlin Mayotte

Attend in person: [UW Tower](#), 14th Floor, Glass Conference Room

[JOIN ONLINE!](#)

Meeting ID: 730 693 565

Listen to audio by phone if needed: [408-638-0968](#)
After you join the meeting, there is an option to choose between phone or computer audio.

[Visit our calendar](#) to see a full schedule of upcoming seminars and events.



Updates About HPRC Staff & Students

- **Gwen Moni's** last day at HPRC was Sept. 27. Thank you, Gwen, for all your dedicated work, including efforts with the Healthy Brain Research Network and Healthy Aging Research Network!
- **Peggy Hannon** is now the Principal Investigator with the Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Control Program. She took on this new role as **Donald Patrick** retired in September. Thank you, Donald, for all your years of support and work!
- **Thuy Vu** and **Amanda Parrish** were re-classified in July from Research Coordinator to Research Scientist and received grade promotions.
- **Lesley Steinman** and **Marilana Kohn** were promoted in July to Research Scientist 4.
- **Meg Robertson** joined HPRC in July as a Research Coordinator on workplace projects. Her supervisor is Kristen Hammerback.
- **Kori VanDerGeest** joined HPRC in August as a Research Coordinator on cancer projects. Her supervisor is Thuy Vu.
- **Jenny Wool** accepted a new Research Assistant role with HPRC's cancer project team starting in September. She completed her work on the national pilot of a social isolation screening tool with Basia Belza and Lesley Steinman in August.
- **Sarah Hohl** started working with HPRC this summer as a Research Assistant and will transition to a post-doc with HPRC in October.
- **Erica Chavez Santos** and **Sara Woolcock** began working with Barbara Baquero in July and will continue into fall quarter. **Erica** is also a PhD student recipient of a \$5,500 LERA-Bassett Scholarship in Labor Relations from the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, which will support her work in addressing occupational health disparities.
- **Perla Bravo Acevedo** began working with the PEARLS team in July and will continue into fall quarter.
- **Sarah Sutton**, who has been working with Miruna Petrescu-Prahova on her Washington State Department of Health projects since January, said goodbye to HPRC in September. Thank you, Sarah, for all your valued input and help!
- Congrats to HPRC Graduate Staff and Research Assistants **Emma Biegacki**, **Gracious Gamiao**, and **Marissa Jackson**, who all graduated in June from the MPH program.

Recent Publications

Brandt HM, Vanderpool RC, Curry SJ, Farris P, Daniel-Ulloa J, Seegmiller L, Stradtman LR, Vu T, Taylor V, Zubizarreta M. A multi-site case study of community-clinical linkages for promoting HPV vaccination. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2019;15(7-8):1599-606. [Abstract](#)

Petrescu-Prahova M, Kohn M, Leroux B, Steinman L, Fishleder S, Pike M, Kava CM, Belza B, Schrodt L, Hannon PA, Harris JR. Building community-clinical linkages to increase older adult physical activity: The PT-REFER trial protocol and participant baseline characteristics. Contemp Clin Trials Commun. 2019;15:100373. [Abstract](#)

Vogel MT, Petrescu-Prahova M, Steinman L, Clegg-Thorp C, Farmer C, Sariker SE, Baldwin LM. Partnerships for Blood Pressure Control in Washington State, December 2016-July 2017. Health Promot Pract. 2019;1524839919853819. [Abstract](#)

[See additional recently published articles here.](#)



A PRC Program Participant

HPRC is a [CDC Prevention Research Center](#), building healthier communities together for over 30 years.

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