NIH PRAGMATIC TRIALS COLLABORATORY
Rethinking Clinical Trials®

Dissemination & Implementation Research Methods and Embedded Pragmatic Trials: Strategies for Designing Studies That Inform Care for Diverse Populations

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Speaker Biographies

Julie Fritz, PhD, PT
University of Utah
Julie.fritz@utah.edu

Julie Fritz, PhD, PT, is a distinguished professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training and the associate dean for research in the College of Health at the University of Utah located in Salt Lake City. Her research has focused on examining nonpharmacologic treatments for individuals with spinal pain, including clinical trials and health services research. Currently, Dr. Fritz is leading projects funded by PCORI and the NIH including projects funded under the NIH HEAL Initiative addressing pain management and opioid use. She also leads a trial within the NIH-VA-DoD Pain Management Collaboratory investigating nonpharmacologic pain management in the Military Health System.

Beda Jean-Francois, PhD
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)
beda.jean-francois@nih.gov

Beda Jean-Francois, PhD, is a program director in the Clinical Research Branch in the Division of Extramural Research of the NCCIH. She oversees a portfolio of clinical research, including health disparities, pediatric research on mental and emotional well-being, maternal morbidity and mortality, and pragmatic clinical trials. Additionally, she contributes to the Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral (MEB) initiatives as well as the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory, the NIH HEAL Initiative, and the Pragmatic and Implementation Studies for the Management of Pain to Reduce Opioid Prescribing (PRISM) program. Dr. Jean-Francois is especially passionate about reducing children's health disparities. Other research interests include life-course perspective on health and disease, behavioral health prevention services, health information technology, reproductive health equity, and childhood obesity. Before joining NCCIH, Dr. Jean-Francois served as an NIH health scientist administrator at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health

Disparities (NIMHD) since 2017. While at NIMHD, she served as a co-lead for the data coordinating center for the trans-NIH Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADxUP), which is a consortium of more than 85 multidisciplinary grantees working to target disparities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality. She developed multiple funding opportunities, including Effectiveness of School-Based Health Centers to Advance Health Equity, Addressing Racial Disparities in Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, and Leveraging Health Information Technology to Address Health Disparities. Additionally, she served as project scientist for Center of Excellence research grants to promote research in health disparities and the training of a diverse scientific workforce.

Dr. Jean-Francois earned her PhD in applied developmental psychology and a master's degree in education with an emphasis on learning and reading disabilities from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1999.

Margaret Kuklinski, PhD
University of Washington
mrk63@uw.edu

Margaret Kuklinski, PhD, is associate professor and director of the Social Development Research Group (SDRG), School of Social Work, University of Washington. Her work aims to promote positive developmental outcomes by demonstrating the long-term impact of effective family-focused and community-based preventive interventions; partnering with communities, agencies, and services systems to implement and scale them; and building policy support for preventive interventions by demonstrating their benefits and costs.

Dr. Kuklinski currently serves as co–principal investigator on a multisite trial testing the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing Guiding Good Choices, a prevention program for parents of adolescents, in 3 large healthcare systems. She is also co–principal investigator on the longitudinal evaluation of the Communities That Care prevention system, which has demonstrated impact on preventing drug use and antisocial behavior from adolescence into young adulthood. Under NIDA's HEAL Prevention Initiative she cochairs the Health Economics Working Group, which is examining the cost-effectiveness of a set of projects aimed at developing effective approaches to preventing opioid misuse in adolescents and young adults.

Dr. Kuklinski received a PhD in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, and an AB in economics from Harvard University.

Stephanie Morain, PhD, MPH
Johns Hopkins University
smorain1@jhu.edu

Stephanie Morain, PhD, MPH is an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Berman Institute of Bioethics. She conducts both empirical

and normative research into issues at the intersection of ethics, law, and health policy.

Her work examines ethical and policy challenges presented by the integration of research and care, particularly issues pertaining to learning healthcare systems and pragmatic clinical trials. Other research interests include the ethics and politics of disease control and injury prevention, and women's reproductive health.

Stephanie received her AB from Lafayette College with a dual major in biology and history, government, and law, her MPH from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and her PhD from Harvard University's Interfaculty Initiative in Health Policy. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Berman Institute for Bioethics at Johns Hopkins University. From 2016 to 2021, she was a faculty member in the Center of Medical Ethics & Health Policy at the Baylor College of Medicine.

David Murray, PhD
Office of Disease Prevention, NIH
david.murray2@nih.gov

David Murray, PhD, has spent his career evaluating interventions designed to improve the public health. He has focused on the design and analysis of group- or cluster-randomized trials in which groups are randomized to conditions and members of those groups are observed to assess the effect of an intervention. He wrote the first textbook on that material, published by Oxford University Press in 1998. He has worked on many of these trials, collaborating with colleagues around the country, and has conducted research to develop and test new methods for their design and analysis. After 35 years at the University of Minnesota, the University of Memphis, and the Ohio State University, Dr. Murray joined the NIH in September 2012, as the associate director for prevention and director of the Office of Disease Prevention. He is responsible for promoting and coordinating prevention research among and between NIH Institutes and Centers and other public and private entities. The Strategic Plan for the Office for 2019 through 2023 identifies 6 priorities related to portfolio analysis, evidence gaps, prevention science methods, trans-NIH research initiatives, tobacco regulatory science and prevention, health disparities, and communications. For more information, see https://prevention.nih.gov/about-odp/staff-directory/david-m-murray-phd.

Emily O'Brien, PhD
Duke University
emily.obrien@duke.edu

Emily O'Brien, PhD, is an associate professor in population health sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine. An epidemiologist by training, Dr. O'Brien's research focuses on comparative effectiveness, patient-centered outcomes, and pragmatic health services research in chronic disease. Dr. O'Brien's expertise is in systematic assessment of medical therapies in real-world settings, including long-term safety and effectiveness assessment. She is the principal investigator for projects focusing on the linkage and use of secondary data, including administrative claims, clinical registries, and electronic health record data. Dr. O'Brien is the principal investigator for studies funded by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), NIH, and PCORI. She is an affiliated faculty member in the Duke Clinical Research Institute and the Duke

Margolis Center for Health Policy, a fellow of the American Heart Association, and an editorial board member for *Stroke* and *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*.

Miguel A. Vazquez, MD
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Miguel.Vazquez@UTSouthwestern.edu

Miguel A. Vazquez, MD, is professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and the clinical chief of the Nephrology Division at UT Southwestern and nephrology chief of service at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. His patient care specialties include chronic kidney disease, end-stage kidney disease, and kidney transplantation. He attended medical school at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, and moved to UT Southwestern for his internship and residency in internal medicine. He also completed his fellowship in nephrology and research in immunology and transplantation at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Vazquez is active in patient-oriented research. His current research efforts are focused on improving care for patients with chronic kidney disease and coexistent diabetes and hypertension as part of the pragmatic clinical trial ICD-Pieces. His research efforts also include the Kidney Precision Medicine Project and studies related to dialysis vascular access. Dr. Vazquez is board-certified in internal medicine and nephrology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and was named a fellow by the American Society of Nephrology in 2011.

Angelo Volandes, MD, MPH
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital
angelo@acpdecisions.org

Angelo Volandes, MD, MPH, is a physician, researcher, filmmaker, and author. He is an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, and co-founder of ACP Decisions Nonprofit Foundation. He is an internationally recognized expert on the use of video decision support tools, decision science, and ethics. He leads an internationally recognized group of innovators and video artists who create video support tools to better inform patients about their options for medical care.

His work has been funded by the National Institute on Aging, the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Nursing Research, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the NIH Common Fund, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Alzheimer's Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, among others.

Dr. Volandes's work has been featured in major publications and national media and he is the author of *The Conversation: A Revolutionary Plan for End-of-Life Care*. He lectures widely around the country.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, he is a proud product of the New York City public school system. He went on to receive his undergraduate degree in philosophy from Harvard, a medical degree from

Yale, and a master's degree in public health from Harvard. In 2005, he was named the Edmond J. Safra Fellow at the Harvard University Center for Ethics.

Wendy Weber, ND, PhD, MPH
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)
wendy.weber@nih.gov

Wendy Weber, ND, PhD, MPH, is the branch chief for the Clinical Research in Complementary and Integrative Health Branch in the Division of Extramural Research in the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health at NIH. She joined NCCIH as a program director in 2009. The Clinical Research Branch is responsible for the oversight of all NCCIH-supported clinical trials. Dr. Weber is the programmatic lead for the Trans-NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory and the program officer for the Coordinating Center. She cochairs the Translating Research to Practice for the Treatment of Opioid Addiction Team within the NIH HEAL Initiative and oversees the Pragmatic and Implementation Studies for the Management of Pain (PRISM) program. Dr. Weber is also a member of the planning and oversight team for the NIH-DoD-VA Pain Management Collaboratory and project scientist for its Coordinating Center. She is also the coordinator for NCCIH's Clinical Trial Specific Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and point of contact for natural product–related clinical trial FOAs. Dr. Weber serves on several trans-agency committees, including serving as one of the NIH representatives to the Leadership Council for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary Patient Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund and as a member of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services–NIH Opioid Working Group, and she leads the Evidence for Non-Pharmacological Treatments subgroup.

At NCCIH, Dr. Weber oversees a portfolio of pragmatic clinical trials, natural product clinical trials, studies of complementary medicine to promote healthy behavior, and multicomponent complementary/integrative medicine intervention research. Her interests include the use of complementary medicine interventions for common pediatric conditions, mental health conditions, promoting healthy behaviors, and health services research.