

## Winter Newsletter 2021

### Putting Our "HEADS" Together



#### WELCOME HEADS CENTER

The [Hopkins' Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Services \(HEADS\) Center](#) is a new research center that seeks to improve the care and lives of those affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Center, led by Jennifer Wolff, PhD, Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the [Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Healthcare](#) and Daniel Polsky, PhD, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Health Economics and Director of the [Hopkins Business of Health Initiative](#), focuses on both understanding the full range of care needs and identifying and advancing solutions that address accessibility, affordability, quality, and equity of care.

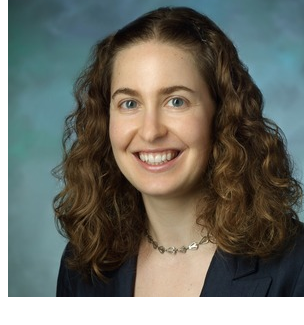
This cross-school initiative is housed in the Department of Health Policy and Management and will work with faculty from the Carey Business School, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and Arts & Sciences. Meet members of our [core faculty and staff](#) on our website and [follow us on Twitter](#).



#### CENTER AIMS

1. To generate new knowledge concerning Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementia care in the areas of the [HEADS Center's thematic focus](#).
2. To advance the field of Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementia economics and health services research and its impact by nurturing emerging and established investigators, developing a cutting-edge research infrastructure, disseminating new knowledge, and forging linkages with policy and practice communities.

#### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



[A study led by Lauren Hersch Nicholas](#) and co-authors at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in *JAMA Internal Medicine* found that Medicare beneficiaries who go on to be diagnosed with dementia are more likely to miss payments on bills as early as six years before a clinical diagnosis. The findings suggest that financial symptoms such as missing payments on routine bills could be used as early predictors of dementia and highlight the benefits of earlier detection.

The paper was highlighted in the [Washington Post](#), [Boston Globe](#), [Miami Herald](#), and [U.S. News and World Report](#). Read the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Press Release](#).



[A study led by Halima Amjad](#) and co-authors John Mulcahy, Judith Kasper, Julia Burgdorf, David Roth, Ken Covinsky, and Jennifer Wolff in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* examined a nationally representative cohort of older adults with disabilities. Increased risk of hospitalization at 12 months was associated with having a primary caregiver who helped with healthcare tasks, reported physical strain, and provided more than 40 hours of care weekly. The findings suggest that hospitalization risk reduction strategies may benefit from understanding and addressing caregiving circumstances.



[A study led by Amber Willink and Quincy Samus](#), and co-authors Karen Davis, Deirdre Johnston, Betty Black, Melissa Reuland, Ian Stockwell, Halima Amjad, and Constantine Lyketsos published in *Innovation in Aging* suggests that hospitalization risk reduction strategies may benefit from understanding and addressing caregiving circumstances. Managed-care plans with the flexibility to engage community health workers could benefit from a low-cost, high-touch intervention to meet the needs of enrollees with dementia.

#### NEWS & UPDATES

##### HEADS Center Pilot Grant Applications Due Feb 1

The HEADS Center expects to award four one-year pilot grants of up to \$25,000 per award. Learn more about [current pilot projects](#) and [read application instructions](#).

##### Attend The 2021 Virtual Summer Workshop For Early Stage Investigators

[Apply to attend the 2021 Virtual HEADS Summer Workshop](#), which will convene early-stage scientists who are designing studies relating to family and unpaid caregiving to persons with dementia that use the NHATS and/or NSOC data. Applications are due March 15.

##### Apply For A Post-Doctoral Fellowship Due March 1

The Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 Training Program at Johns Hopkins University seeks to produce the next generation of scientists with rigorous training in person and family-centered health services and outcomes research with a focus on older adults. A call for post-doctoral fellows to begin before August 31 is [available here](#).

##### Final Round 9 NHATS And COVID-19 Sample Person Data Files Released

The redesigned [NHATS data website](#) includes Final Round 9 NHATS data files and an early release of the COVID-19 sample person (SP) beta file.

##### Follow Us On Social Media

We invite you and your colleagues to [follow the Lipitz Center on Twitter](#). This account is used to share information about the center, faculty members, inter-disciplinary collaborations, research projects, and highlight exciting work being done in our research community.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Burgdorf JG, Mroz TM, Wolff JL. [Social Vulnerability and Medical Complexity Among Medicare Beneficiaries Receiving Home Health Without Prior Hospitalization](#). *Innov Aging*. 2020 Oct 3.

Drabo EF, Kang SY, Gong CL. [Guarding Against Seven Common Threats to the Credible Estimation of COVID-19 Policy Effects](#). *Am J Public Health*. 2020 Dec.

Fabius C, Shugrue N, Robison JT. [Outcomes Associated with Home and Community-based Service Use Among Older Adults following a Nursing Home Transition](#). *J Gerontol Soc Work*. 2020 Nov 11:1-15.

LaFave S, Drazich B, Sheehan OC, Leff B, Szanton SL, Schuchman M. [The Value of Home-Based Primary Care: Qualitative Exploration of Homebound Participant Perspectives](#). *J Appl Gerontol*. 2020 Oct 22.

Socal MP, Ezeibilo I, Bai G, Anderson GF. [Biosimilar formulary placement in Medicare Part D prescription drug plans: A case study of infliximab](#). *Am J Health Syst Pharm*. 2020 Dec 8.

Wolff JL, Scerpella D, Cockey K, Hussain N, Funkhouser T, Echavarria D, Aufill J, Guo A, Sloan DH, Dy SM, Smith KM; SHARING Choices Investigators. [SHARING Choices: A Pilot Study to Engage Family in Advance Care Planning of Older Adults With and Without Cognitive Impairment in the Primary Care Context](#). *Am J Hosp Palliat Care*. 2020 Dec 16.

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