

# Research and Academics in KP California Emergency Medicine

## Quarterly Report: 2024 Q4

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## Hot Off the Press<sup>a</sup>

### TPMG (Northern CA)

Dillon DG, Montoy JCC, Bosson N, Toy J, Kidane S, **Ballard DW**, Gausche-Hill M, Donofrio-Odmann J, Schlesinger SA, Staats K, Kazan C, Morr B, Thompson K, **Mackey K**, Brown J, Menegazzi JJ; California Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium. [Rationale and development of a prehospital goal-directed bundle of care to prevent rearrest after return of spontaneous circulation](#). *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2024;5(6):e13321

**Casey SD**, Huang J, Parry DD, Lieu TA, Reed ME. [Health care utilization with telemedicine and in-person visits in pediatric primary care](#). *JAMA Health Forum*. 2024;5(11):e244156.

DOR Spotlight: [Telemedicine can provide timely pediatric primary care](#)

Two TPMG emergency physicians—**Scott D. Casey and David R. Vinson**—helped launch a new international collaboration of venous thromboembolism researchers. Both physicians are serving on the EARTH Steering Committee. This short editorial tells their origin story:

Roy PM, Penaloza A, Germini F, Kline JA. [The Emergency Advisory and Research international board on Thrombosis and Hemostasis \(EARTH\)](#). *Eur J Emerg Med*. 2024;31(6):376-377.

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<sup>a</sup> Publications, including abstracts and educational works, are organized by the region of the leading TPMG/SCPMG emergency physician author, whose name is the first one in bold font. We also highlight all KP EM co-authors. Updates for coming quarterlies can be sent to David R. Vinson, KP CREST Network: [david.r.vinson@kp.org](mailto:david.r.vinson@kp.org)

Freund Y, Kabrhel C, **Casey SD, Vinson DR**, Stubblefield WB, Kline J, Douillet D, Germini F, Penaloza A, Hugli O, Roy PM, de Wit K; Emergency Advisory and Research international board on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (EARTH). [Ruling out pulmonary embolism safely: standardized reporting of the failure rate.](#) *Acad Emerg Med*. 2024 Nov 27. Online ahead of print.

**Kene MV, Sax DR**, Bhargava R, Somers MJ, Warton EM, Zhang JY, Rauchwerger AS, Reed ME. [Post-telemedicine acute care for undifferentiated high-acuity conditions: Is a picture worth a thousand words?](#) *Telemed J E Health*. 2025 Jan 10. Online ahead of print.

**Lau L**, Hall RV, Papanagnou D, London K. [Safer pediatric sedations: simulation checklists to improve knowledge, attitudes, and skills in emergency medicine residents.](#) *Cureus*. 2024;16(9):e70516.

**Vinson DR**, Warton EM, **Durant EJ, Mark DG, Ballard DW, Hofmann ER, Sax DR, Kene MV, Lin JS, Poth LS, Ghiya MS, Ganapathy A, Whiteley PM, Bouvet SC**, Rauchwerger AS, Zhang JY, Shan J, DiLena DD, Kea B, Pai AP, Loyles JB, Solomon MD, Go AS, Reed ME. [Decision support intervention and anticoagulation for emergency department atrial fibrillation: The O'CAFÉ stepped-wedge cluster randomized clinical trial.](#) *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024;7(11):e2443097.

**Vinson DR**, Somers MJ, Qiao E, Campbell AR, Heringer GV, Florio CJ, Zekar L, Middleton CE, Woldemariam S, **Gupta N, Poth LS**, Reed ME, Roubinian NH, Raja AS, Sperling JD. [Consent to advanced imaging in antenatal pulmonary embolism diagnostics: prevalence, outcomes of non-consent, and opportunities to mitigate delayed diagnosis risk.](#) *Acad Emerg Med*. 2024 Nov 17. Online ahead of print.

**Invited Commentary.** Roy PM, Moumneh TM. [Balancing risks and priorities: achieving right care in diagnosing pulmonary embolism during pregnancy.](#) *Acad Emerg Med*. 2025 Jan 13. Online ahead of print.

Stubblefield WB, Helderman R, Strokes N, Greineder CF, Barnes GD, **Vinson DR**, Westafer LM. [Factors in initial anticoagulation choice in hospitalized patients with pulmonary embolism.](#) *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024;8(1):e2452877.

**Invited Commentary.** Maughan BC, Kabrhel C, Jarman AF. [Evidence-Based Anticoagulation Choice for Acute Pulmonary Embolism.](#) *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024;8(1):e2452850.

Heringer GV, **Vinson DR**. [Utility of smart watch in expediting diagnosis of cold drink-triggered atrial fibrillation: a case report.](#) *Int J Emerg Med*. 2024;17(1):148.

## SCPMG (Southern CA)

**Brinley Rajagopal A.** [Woman with swollen eyelids.](#) *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2024;25;5(5):e13277.

**Ghobadi A**, Hanna M, Tovar S, Do DH, Duan L, Lee MS, Samuels EA, Davis CS, **Sharp AL.** [Impact of California's naloxone co-prescription law on emergency department visits, 30-day mortality, and prescription patterns.](#) *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2024;5(5):e13236.

**Kei J**, Jang N, Silver M. [National survey of airway management practices and training among emergency medicine residency programs in the United States](#). *Perm J*. 2024 Dec 9:1-11. Online ahead of print.

**Metri S**, Gonzalez-Cobos C, Rose G. [Treatment of shoulder pain with ultrasound-guided interfascial plane block: A case series](#). *Am J Emerg Med*. 2024;86:189.e1-189.e3.

Letter: Metri S, Gonzalez-Cobos C, Rose G. [Response to commentary on ultrasound-guided interfascial plane block for shoulder pain: Technique, scope, and rationale](#). *Am J Emerg Med*. 2024 Nov 14. Online ahead of print.

Moak JH, **Swann KC**, Kongkatong MM, Ottenhoff JE, Thom CD. [Sonographic detection of iatrogenic carotid artery guidewires during internal jugular vein catheterization](#). *POCUS J*. 2024;9(2):88-92.

Vempati A, **Tarchione A**. [Evaluating the realism of a task trainer and the impact on residents' confidence in managing massive upper gastrointestinal bleeding among emergency medicine residents](#). *Cureus*. 2024;16(11):e73076.

## Abstract Presentations at Society Meetings

### A. 2024 American Heart Association

- **Sax DR**, Huang J, **Mark D**, Rana J, Solomon M, Norris R, Reed M. [Prospective validation and implementation pilot study of an emergency department heart failure risk stratification tool: STRIDE-HF](#). *Circ*. 2024;150(S1):4135726.

### B. 2024 International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis

- Servent M, **Casey S**, Stubblefield W, Douillet D, Germini F, Penaloza A, Kabrhel C, Huisman M, **Vinson D**, Roy P. [International expert consensus on criteria to assess the safety of home treatment of patients with acute pulmonary embolism](#). *Res Pract Thromb Haemost*. 2024;8(S2):775 [abstract PB0933].

### C. 2024 World Conference on Lung Cancer

- Ragavan M, Somers MJ, Reed M, Dang A, Yang M, Huang T, **Vinson D**, Sakoda L, Triplett C, Liu R. [Sociodemographic and clinical predictors of diagnosis of lung cancer in the emergency department in a large, integrated health system](#). *J Thorac Oncol*. 2024;19(10):S424.

### D. 2024 Association of American Medical Colleges

- **Silver MA**, Mazotti L, Kim JG, Xu J, Kanter MG. Evaluating the utility of patient reported outcomes on medical student clinical performance. AAMC Annual Meeting. November 2024.
- Mazotti L, **Silver MA**, Kim JG, Xu J, Kanter MG. Benchmarking core clerkship students' patient satisfaction scores against faculty and resident performance in an integrated healthcare delivery system. AAMC Annual Meeting. November 2024.

## Just Launched or Added

### 1. Clinical guideline-discordant ED bronchiolitis management: incidence, predictors, and impact

Principal Investigator: **Scott D. Casey** (Vallejo and Vacaville)

Co-investigators: Dustin W. Ballard (San Rafael), Tara L. Greenhow (Pediatric Infectious Diseases, San Francisco), Tran H. Nguyen (Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Roseville), Stuart Dalziel (Pediatric Emergency Medicine, New Zealand), Ross M. Perry (Pediatrics resident, Oakland), Madeline J. Somers and Mary E. Reed (DOR), and the KP CREST Network

Funding: KPNC Community Health Research Program

Study Sites: KPNC

Summary: Bronchiolitis is a pediatric respiratory infection commonly diagnosed in the ED. Although bronchiolitis has clear diagnosis and treatment guidelines, preliminary data from KPNC suggest that >40% of children with bronchiolitis received ED testing or treatment that did not conform to clinical guidelines. This retrospective study will determine the prevalence of clinical guideline discordant care of ED patients  $\leq 2$  years of age with a primary diagnosis of bronchiolitis over an 8-year period. First, we will describe key characteristics of our cohort. Second, we will stratify the cohort by guideline discordant treatment and examine bivariate associations between discordant treatment and characteristics of interest. Third, we will test our hypotheses regarding the associations of characteristics of interest and clinical guideline discordant care using modified Poisson multivariate regression analyses to report results as adjusted relative risks. Finally, we will compare characteristics of patients with and without clinical guideline discordant care and the length of time spent in the ED. We hypothesize that clinical guideline discordant care will be associated with longer LOS, due to time required for treatment. The results will inform the design and implementation of a physician-level intervention to decrease clinical guideline discordant bronchiolitis care.

### 2. Safety of atrial fibrillation antiarrhythmic regimen using IV calcium and beta blockers

Principal Investigator: **Edward J. Durant** (Modesto and Manteca)

Co-investigators: Taylor Liu (Electrophysiology, Santa Clara), Mary Reed, Margaret Warton, and Adina Rauchwerger (KP DOR), and David R. Vinson (Roseville and Sacramento), and the KP CREST Network

Funding: KPNC Community Health Research Program

Study Sites: KPNC

Summary: We will determine the prevalence and outcomes in the use of combined IV rate-reducers for the acute treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF) with rapid ventricular response. Our research question is: among adult patients in the ED receiving combined therapy with IV beta blockers and calcium channel blockers for AF with rapid ventricular response, what is the 4-hour

incidence of adverse events (e.g., bradycardia or hypotension requiring IV medications, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, death) compared with patients receiving monotherapy with either medication? This is a retrospective cohort study of adult patients who were treated with IV beta blockers or calcium channel blockers for a primary diagnosis of AF in the ED from 1/1/2010 to 12/31/2024. The study addresses a clear and pressing knowledge gap, as there are currently limited data on the safety of combined IV beta blockers and calcium channel blockers compared with monotherapy for rapid AF.

### 3. Evaluating diuresis strategies for ED patients with acute heart failure

Principal Investigator: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond)

Co-investigators: Dustin G. Mark (Oakland and Richmond), Jamal Rana (Cardiology, Oakland), Mary Reed and Jie Huang (DOR), and the KP CREST Network

Funding: KPNC Community Health Research Program

Study Sites: KPNC

Summary: We seek to understand current ED practice in diuresis of patients with acute heart failure (AHF), and to evaluate how different diuretic dosing strategies, after adjusting for other factors, are associated with patient outcomes. We plan a retrospective cohort study of all ED encounters by KPNC members with AHF who received an IV diuretic from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024. Patients will be identified using the natural language processing algorithm our study team previously developed and validated to improve case identification of ED patients with AHF. In Aim 1, we will use descriptive statistics to evaluate current practice around timing, dosing, and monitoring for ED diuresis; in Aim 2, we will use a multivariate logistic regression model (high versus non-high initial diuretic dose) to assess whether any patient or visit characteristics are significantly associated with initial dosing selection; in Aim 3, we will compare otherwise similar patients who receive different initial diuretic doses to assess how the dose selection is associated with patient outcomes using inverse probability weighting. Information from this study could help inform protocols for ED diuresis, as well as strategies for effective decongestion in alternate care spaces.

### 4. Outpatient management of pregnancy-associated pulmonary embolism

Principal Investigator: **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento)

Co-investigators: Madeline J. Somers and Mary E. Reed (DOR), Nareg Roubinian (Pulmonology and Critical Care, Oakland), Jeffrey D. Sperling (Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Modesto), Ashok P. Pai (Hematology/anticoagulation, Oakland), Jemma Akkad and Sam Rouleau (UC Davis resident and fellow, respectively), TBD (KP Oakland OB/GYN resident), and the KP CREST Network

Funding: KPNC Community Health Research Program

Study Sites: KPNC

Summary: Emergency physicians and obstetricians across KPNC discharge home select pregnant and postpartum patients with acute pulmonary embolism (PE) within 24 hours of their arrival to the ED and Labor and Delivery, respectively. This practice of rapid diagnostics, brief observation, and expedited discharge with close follow-up is known as outpatient management. Strangely, such a practice, though recommended by professional society guidelines, has never been described in the literature. With a 14-year retrospective cohort study across 21 medical centers from 2010 through 2023, our established multidisciplinary team (emergency medicine, maternal-fetal medicine, pulmonology, and hematology) will address 3 unexplored questions: (1) What is the prevalence of outpatient management of pregnancy-associated PE across KPNC? (2) What patient- and facility-level variables characterize those selected for outpatient care? (3) How safe is the practice as measured by the 7-day incidence of PE-related hospitalization and all-cause mortality? Results of this first-of-its-kind study will inform quality improvement measures within KPNC recommendations by professional societies.

Status: We recently published a small case series as a teaser: Vinson DR, Roubinian NH, Pai AP, Sperling JD. [Expanding outpatient management of low-risk pulmonary embolism to the pregnant population: a case series](#). *Eur Heart J Case Rep*. 2024;8(9):ytac441. We hope to present some prelim data at conference meetings this summer.

## Ongoing Research Projects<sup>b</sup>

### 1. Evaluation of ligamentous injury in traumatic knee injuries using bedside point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in the ED

Principal Investigator: **Eric Abrams** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: Gabriel Rose, Dasia Esener (San Diego)

Study Site: San Diego

Summary: ACL tears are a common pathology following knee injuries presenting to the ED. However, typical imaging modalities used during the ED visit, including x-ray and POCUS, are not reliable or accurate in the diagnosis as compared to MRI. MRI is performed after the index ED visit on an outpatient basis in accordance with an orthopedics follow up appointment. Our group will evaluate whether the presence of a knee effusion, as detected on POCUS examination, increases the likelihood of ligamentous injury (ACL) after acute knee injury. Patients will be scanned by one of the ultrasound faculty or fellows during their visit and outpatient follow up imaging and orthopedics visit summary will be referenced as the gold standard.

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<sup>b</sup> Active studies are organized alphabetically by the leading TPMG or SCPMG emergency physician investigator, whose name is in bold font.

Status: On hold.

## **2. Evaluation of physician-performed musculoskeletal ultrasound after implementation of QR code digital reference cards in the ED: the “Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Assist in Demand” (MSKAiD) project**

Principal Investigator: **Kate Anderson** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: Gabriel Rose, Eric Abrams, and Dasia Esener (San Diego)

Study Site: KP San Diego

Summary: EM physician-performed musculoskeletal (MSK) ultrasound (diagnostic and procedural) is part of the core applications of point of care ultrasound training during residency per national society guidelines. However, EM physicians often defer performing MSK ultrasound-guided diagnostics and procedures in favor of other imaging modalities or consultant management, due to low comfort and/or experience with MSK ultrasound. This prospective study will evaluate physician comfort level pre- and post-implementation of rapid reference QR digital cards placed on every point of care ultrasound machine within the ED. Further, we will assess the number of non-ultrasound fellowship trained physician-performed MSK ultrasound (diagnostic and/or procedural) prior to and following QR code card placement.

Status: Abstract presented at KP San Diego Emergency Medicine/Family Medicine Research Symposium 2024.

## **3. Creation of a high-fidelity 3D simulation model for performance of POCUS guided lumbar puncture and erector spinae block**

Principal investigator: **Gabriel Rose** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: Dasia Esener, Drew Silver, and Eric Abrams (San Diego)

Study Site: KP San Diego

Summary: We plan to create a semi 3D printed back (lumbar) and create a ballistics gelatin in-molding to simulate the vertebrae and erector spinae muscles. We will have residents perform an LP as well as the erector spinae block under ultrasound guidance and measure pre- and post-procedural confidence.

Status: We are creating the simulation model.

## **4. Post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC) in adult KPNC members**

Principal Investigators: **Dustin W. Ballard** (San Rafael) and Mary E. Reed (DOR).

Co-investigators: Jacek Skarbinski (Infectious Disease, Oakland), Edward J. Durant (Modesto/Manteca), David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento), Dustin G. Mark (Oakland/Richmond), Marc Siqueiros (Internal Medicine, Santa Clara), Madhavi Cholletti (Internal Medicine, Campbell) and Daniel DiLena and Adina S. Rauchwerger, the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: The Permanente Medical Group's Delivery Science Program

Summary: This retrospective cohort study will evaluate the incidence, temporal trends, characteristics, and predictors of PASC encounters among adult KPNC members between 11/1/2020 and 7/1/2022. The cohort will include patients with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection and identify those with a confirmed PASC diagnosis. We will use predictive analytic techniques to examine predictors of PASC diagnoses and associated encounters among all KPNC members with known prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, testing the hypothesis that COVID-19 vaccination is protective. We will also evaluate PASC patient clinical characteristics, including recidivism, temporal trends, and utilization metrics such as specialty and diagnostic (imaging and laboratory) referrals. This study will add to our understanding of the natural history, utilization, and short-term and longitudinal outcomes of PASC patients in KPNC and will inform clinical practice recommendation revisions and referral criteria.

Status: Our brief report on anosmia was published in *J Intern Med*. Our second manuscript, addressing predictors of PASC, led by Ed Durant, is under peer-review. We are working on two abstracts to submit for national conference presentation.

#### **5a. Infant Fever STEWARD Project (STandardizing Emergency Work-up Around Risk Data): ORIGINAL**

Principal Investigators: **Dustin W. Ballard** (San Rafael) and Tara Greenhow (Pediatric infectious disease; San Francisco)

Co-Investigators: KP CREST Network, Adam L. Sharp (DRE<sup>c</sup> and Los Angeles), and Pediatric Hospitalists Bev Young and Tran Nguyen

Study Sites: KP Northern California and KP Southern California

Funding: Garfield Memorial Fund

Summary: We first defined retrospective incidence rates of clinical and utilization outcomes in two cohorts (age 7-90 days, and 91-365 days) presenting to the emergency department (ED) in Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) and Kaiser Permanente Southern California (KPSC) with fever. We have deployed these incidence data in a structured electronic clinical decision support (CDS) module that promotes American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines and prospectively collects data. We are collecting real-time patient-specific clinical data in a structured fashion based on age strata and offer CDS links to Peds HBS/Peds ID-approved guideline documents/flowcharts. CDS content and evaluation emphasize utilization outcomes.

Status: The CDS module is in use across most KPNC facilities, used for patient care and for collecting prospective data. We have published [four manuscripts](#) to date: (1) Clinical management

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<sup>c</sup> DRE = KPSC Department of Research & Evaluation (Pasadena); DOR = KPNC Division of Research (Pleasanton)



and outcomes for febrile infants 29-60 days evaluated in community EDs; (2) Using AAP guidelines to manage febrile infants without C-reactive protein and procalcitonin; (3) CA-FIRST (California Febrile Infant Risk Stratification Tool) algorithm development in a learning health system and (4) An all-inclusive model for predicting invasive bacterial infection in febrile infants aged 7-60 days. Tara Greenhow gave an oral presentation at the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum, Philadelphia, PA, October 2023: Risk of serious bacterial infections in febrile infants aged 7-90 days with COVID-19.

#### **5b. California Febrile Infant Risk Stratification Tool (CA FIRST) Study: EXPANSION**

Principal Investigators: **Dustin W. Ballard** (San Rafael) and Tara Greenhow (Pediatric Infectious Disease, San Francisco)

Co-Investigators: KP CREST Network, Bev Young and Tran Nguyen (Pediatric Hospitalists, Roseville), Patrick Van Winkle (Pediatric Hospitalist, Anaheim), Margaret Stone (Pediatric Infectious Disease, Woodland Hills), Sonya Negriff (Research Scientist, Dept of Research and Evaluation, Pasadena)

Study Sites: KP Northern California and KP Southern California

Funding: Garfield Memorial Fund

Summary: Our CA FIRST protocol for the management of febrile infants was structured on the validated Roseville protocol and modified in light of the recent American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines. With broad multispecialty endorsement, the protocol has been accepted by physician leadership in both KP Northern and Southern CA and posted on the Clinical Library. In an earlier GMF-supported study, we designed, built, and implemented a structured electronic clinical decision support module to bring the CA FIRST protocol to EDs across KPNC. This new study will (1) retrospectively validate the CA FIRST protocol in a large cohort febrile infants in KPSC and compare its performance with the AAP guidelines; (2) prospectively evaluate the performance of the CA FIRST protocol in KPNC for key safety and diagnostic outcomes; and (3) expand decision support in KPNC to promote best practices regarding optimal ordering of chest x-rays, urinalysis and culture, and lumbar punctures in febrile infants <90 days of age.

Status: We are in analysis phase for Aims 1 and 3 and had an abstract presentation in May 2023 on the diagnostic yield of blood cultures in the 91-365-day population. Aim 2 data collection continues with over 3,200 prospective enrollments for infants aged 7-90 days as of January 2025.

#### **5c. Improving clinical decision support for the care of febrile infants: expanding CA FIRST research (California Febrile Infant Risk Stratification Tool)**

Principal Investigators: **Dustin W. Ballard** (San Rafael) and Tara Greenhow (Pediatric Infectious Diseases, San Francisco)

Co-investigators: From **KP Northern CA**: Dustin G. Mark (Oakland/Richmond), Mamata V. Kene (San Leandro/Fremont), David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento), Tran H. P. Nguyen (Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Roseville), Madeline J. Somers, Adina S. Rauchwerger, and Mary E. Reed (DOR), with the KP CREST Network; from **KP Southern CA**: Margaret Stone (Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Woodland Hills), Joseph Colli (Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Harbor City), Sonya Negriff (Department of Research and Evaluation)

Funding: Garfield Memorial Fund (who has generously supported this project from its inception)

Study Sites: KPNC and KPSC

Summary: This study will expand our ongoing work (see ongoing studies 6a and 6b below) to improve the care of febrile infants with the following four aims: (1) Following data collection and analysis, we aim to retrospectively validate CA FIRST in KPNC and KPSC outpatient settings using data from 2021-2024. (2) We plan to implement enhanced Clinical Decision Support (CDS) in RISTRA (KPNC) with a focus on the age 91-365 day febrile infant population and the goal to decrease unnecessary utilization and treatment, specifically chest x-rays, blood cultures and antibiotics for respiratory conditions. We will prospectively track utilization and safety outcomes to assess the impact of this decision support. (3) Based on retrospective validation, we will determine the utility of obtaining a urine culture in the setting of negative urinalysis (UA) in infants 7-60 days. For infants 61 days to 2 years in outpatient clinics and ED, we will explore the feasibility of implementing UTICalc on the Clinical Library and embedding it into the RISTRA clinical decision support tool. We also plan to provide additional recommendations to providers on how to obtain appropriate specimens. (4) We plan to disseminate the data and guidelines developed in Aims 1 and 2 across KP National. The information will be shared via Clinical Library, promotion at regional chiefs meetings, webinars and presentations with continuing medical education and social media.

## 6. Non-endoscopic management of acute esophageal food impaction in the ED

Principal Investigator: Linda Lee (Gastroenterology, Sacramento)

Co-Investigators: **Sean C. Bouvet** (San Francisco) and Dan Li (Gastroenterology, Santa Clara)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: Esophageal food impaction is one of the most common gastrointestinal emergencies. These patients usually require urgent endoscopy in the ED to remove the impacted food and avoid esophageal necrosis or perforation. Research regarding non-endoscopic management remains limited and the current endoscopy guidelines are over 10 years old. If non-endoscopic treatments can successfully treat patients with esophageal food impaction, it can avoid the risk, time, and expense of endoscopy. In this study, we will assess the rate of successfully resolving food impaction without endoscopy, the predictors and efficacy of non-endoscopic therapy, and the incidence of adverse events related to treatment type.

Status: We have completed the analysis. The ms is being written.

## 7. Risk stratification of ED patients with lower GI bleeding: identifying patients who may be safe for outpatient management

Principal Investigator: **Sean C. Bouvet** (San Francisco)

Co-Investigators: T.R. Levin (Gastroenterology, Walnut Creek), Dana R. Sax (Oakland/Richmond), Mary E. Reed, Madeline Somers, Adina S. Rauchwerger (DOR), Daniel DiLena, and the CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: Emergency physicians evaluate approximately 10,000 adults annually in our 21 EDs with a diagnosis of lower gastrointestinal bleed. There is a recently validated tool, the Oakland score, to risk-stratify *hospitalized* patients to identify those at low risk who may be eligible for expedited discharge with close outpatient follow-up. This tool, however, has not been assessed on an ED population. This retrospective cohort study will evaluate a cohort of 20,000 ED adults with a diagnosis of lower gastrointestinal bleed in 2019-2020 and identify the frequency of adverse events. Performance metrics of the Oakland Score will be calculated at different point thresholds. If the score performs well in this population with sufficient sensitivity, it will set the stage for a prospective validation study.

Status: We presented an abstract to the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine annual meeting in Austin, Texas, in May 2023. The ms has been accepted for publication by the *Int J Emerg Med*.

## 8. Emergency physicians' attitudes towards presumptive anticoagulation for suspected acute pulmonary embolism

Investigators: Keerat Grewal (Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Medicine Institute, Toronto, ON), **Scott D. Casey** (Vallejo/Vacaville), and Olivier Hugli (Lausanne University, Switzerland)

Funding: None

Study sites: EDs across several countries

Summary: Consensus guidelines recommend consideration of presumptive anticoagulation in patients with a high pre-test probability of acute pulmonary embolism while pursuing diagnostic confirmation. Poor adherence to these recommendations is incompletely understood and studies assessing physicians' attitudes towards presumptive anticoagulation may illustrate barriers and facilitators to increasing presumptive anticoagulation practices through implementation science initiatives.

Status: We have begun data collection in other countries. Our part of the study is under IRB review.

## 9. Traditional ACLS training vs TeamSTEPPS plus ACLS training: a comparison of outcomes

Principal Investigator: **Charles Chiang** (San Diego)

Co-Investigators: Marlene M Alfaro, Adam Schwartz, Peter Sacci, Sari Lahham, Ian Chong, Daniel Lee (all San Diego)

Study Site: KP San Diego

Summary: This is a prospective observational study to evaluate the effectiveness of ACLS simulation + TeamSTEPPS training compared with standard AHA didactic ACLS training received by emergency and family medicine residents. Residents that have undergone prior didactic ACLS training and are “ACLS certified” undergo a simulated cardiac arrest case in the simulation lab. Residents are then trained via simulation and TeamSTEPPS methodology on running cardiac arrest cases and are later run through another cardiac arrest simulation. Observational variables collected and compared include time to recognition of arrest, time to initiation of CPR, time to defibrillation, time to epinephrine, among others. Subjective data surveys are also collected pre- and post-simulation training.

Status: Data have been collected and analysis completed. Initial abstract completed and will be submitted for presentation at national meeting.

#### **10. CT Use Reduction in Ostensive Ureteral Stone (CURIOUS): retrospective validation of clinical decision rules to predict complicated ureteral stone**

Principal Investigator: **Edward J. Durant** (Modesto/Manteca)

Co-Investigators: Annie Ma (UC Davis), Vignesh Arasu (Radiology, Vallejo), Raymond Bernal (Urology, Manteca), Mary E. Reed and E. Margaret Warton (DOR), Aidan Campbell (NYU), Zev Minow (Kaiser Central Valley), Cynthia Kim (California Northstate University), and David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento) of the KP CREST Network.

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Summary: Computed tomography (CT) is considered the gold standard for diagnostic imaging in suspected renal colic. Several researchers have attempted to develop clinical decision rules to predict ureteral stones without the use of CT. The main drawback of these clinical decision tools is that they were not designed to predict complications from stones, such as the need for admission or urologic intervention. In this retrospective study, we sought to derive clinical decision rules to guide imaging decisions based on the patient’s risk of complicated stones. To our knowledge, ours is the first study specifically designed to derive clinical decision rules to predict clinically important stones in patients with suspected renal colic. If validated, these rules could be used to guide imaging decisions, expedite ED throughput, save resources, reduce radiation exposure, and provide a model for other EDs to follow.

Status: We published our methods paper in *Am J Emerg Med*. We presented abstracts in 2022 at the American College of Radiology annual meeting in Washington, DC, and the Society of

Academic Emergency Medicine annual meeting in New Orleans. Our prediction rule manuscript was published in *AJEM*: CT Use Reduction In Ostensive Ureteral Stone (CURIUS). We are now undertaking a secondary analysis to evaluate how the magnitude of hydronephrosis correlates with clinically important ureteral stones.

#### **11. Evaluation of normal reference ranges for ultrasound measurements of hip joint in elderly patients**

Principal Investigator: Felipe Aguayo Romero (Baylor)

Co-Investigators: **Dasia Esener**, Gabriel Rose, William Swanson, and Eric Abrams (San Diego)

Study Site: KP San Diego

Summary: Ultrasound can be used to evaluate for effusion of the hip joint which may be useful in screening for septic arthritis or occult injury. The current reference range for this measurement is based on decades old ultrasound machine technology when hip joint capsule size was used as a surrogate for presumed presence of hip effusion. The primary objective of this study is to determine whether the current reference range for this measurement is accurate and is sufficiently specific for abnormal hip joint capsule size in the elderly population.

Status: Abstract was presented at the Research Forum of the American College of Emergency Physicians meeting in San Francisco in October, 2022.

#### **12. The frequency of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) use in the treatment of ED patients with sepsis**

Principal Investigator: **Dasia Esener** (San Diego)

Co-Investigators: Bryan Dalla Betta and William Swanson (San Diego)

Study Site: KP San Diego

Summary: Retrospective analysis of point of care ultrasound use within the emergency department amongst patients with sepsis. Analysis included types of studies utilized, use patterns and change in use over time. Analysis of this cohort of septic patients found a significant increase in the use of POCUS during the four-year study period. This increase is attributable to more diagnostic and resuscitative exams being performed.

Status: Abstract presented in October at the 2021 Research Forum of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

#### **13. Diagnostic accuracy of retinal pathology by emergency physicians comparing ocular ultrasound and direct fundoscopic imaging**

Principle Investigator: **Joshua Fuchs** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: Carlos Gonzalez-Cobos, Gabriel Rose, Dasia Esener (San Diego)

Summary: Fundoscopy can be challenging in the ED. Point-of-care ultrasonography (POCUS) offers an accurate way to diagnose emergent conditions of the eye that can replace the need for fundoscopy. Recently iCARE technology has been introduced as a more user-friendly method of performing fundoscopy. We are performing a prospective, quiz-based survey study to evaluate whether emergency physicians across a broad range of training can distinguish various pathologies of the eye based on POCUS images and iCARE fundusoscopic images.

Status: Study completed. Abstract was presented at the 2024 American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum in Las Vegas in October.

#### **14. A retrospective analysis on the current use of bedside ultrasound in the diagnosis of acute heart failure in the emergency department**

Principle Investigator: **Carlos Gonzalez-Cobos** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: Gabriel Rose, Joshua Fuchs, Dasia Esener, Peter Sacci (San Diego)

Study Site: San Diego

Summary: Congestive heart failure (CHF) is a common admitting diagnosis from the ED. Point-of-care ultrasonography (POCUS) can be highly accurate in diagnosing patients with acute CHF. POCUS for CHF using echocardiography and lung imaging is taught to residents as part of the standard core principles of training and is considered an ACGME requirement. We are performing a retrospective analysis of all CHF admissions from the ED over one year and assessing the percentage of patients who did/did not undergo POCUS as part of their diagnostic assessment.

Status: Study completed. Abstract was presented at the 2024 American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum in Las Vegas in October.

#### **15. Risk of short-term vital sign deterioration in low-risk pulmonary embolism patients presenting to the ED with normal initial vital signs**

Principal Investigator: **Erik R. Hofmann** (South Sacramento)

Co-Investigators: David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento), Edward Durant and Liga Yusvirazi (Modesto/Manteca)

Study Site: KP Northern California

Funding: Kaiser Permanente Northern California Graduate Medical Education, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals

Summary: This retrospective cohort study is evaluating the prevalence of ambulatory ED patients with acute pulmonary embolism (PE) and normal initial vital signs who develop abnormal vital signs within 6 hours of ED arrival and cross the threshold from low to high-risk PE based on the PE Severity Index with associated ICU admission and 30-day adverse events.

Status: Analysis is complete. We are working now on the manuscript.

#### **16. Multicenter study evaluating airway management practices among community ED in Southern California.**

Principle Investigator: **Jonathan Kei** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: Travis M Eurick (San Diego)

Study site: KP San Diego and beyond

Summary: There have been several studies published evaluating airway management practices among academic and trauma centered EDs in the United States through the NEAR (National Emergency Airway Registry) database. But to date, there has not been similar research focused on community based EDs. This is a retrospective study evaluating 11,000 intubations performed across 12 community EDs in Southern California. Trends in intubation techniques, pharmacological choices, first pass success rates, the use of airway adjuncts, and use of advanced airway management techniques including surgical airways will be explored.

Status: An abstract was presented at the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum, Philadelphia, PA, October 2023. Manuscript in press with *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

#### **17. Assessing the optimal hand placement for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by finding the point of maximal compression of the left ventricle on CT imaging**

Principle Investigator: **Jonathan Kei** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: AJ Mannarino, Steve Aguilar, Lauren Van Woy (San Diego)

Study site: KP San Diego

Summary: Traditional CPR techniques advise performers place their hands on the mid sternum. Recent studies using transesophageal echo during CPR suggest that traditional hand placement is actually compressing the left outflow tract which can hinder forward movement of blood from the heart. A more optimal approach would be to move the hands more inferior and left lateral to fully compress the left ventricle. This study uses CT chest scans to identify the direct center of the left ventricle and then measures how far this point of optimal maximum compression is to the traditional location of hand placement. This study will provide recommendations for optimal hand placement during CPR based on gender and body mass characteristics in hopes of improving future outcomes in patients with cardiac arrest.

Status: Abstract presented at SAEM 2024 in Phoenix, AZ. Manuscript in progress.

#### **18. Pediatric respiratory illnesses in the post-COVID era: epidemiology, ED care, and outcomes**

Principal Investigator: **Mamata V. Kene** (San Leandro/Fremont)

Co-investigators: Dana R. Sax (Oakland/Richmond), Tara L. Greenhow (Pediatric ID, San Francisco), Mary E. Reed, E. Margaret Warton, and Adina S. Rauchwerger (Division of Research, Pleasanton), and the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: Pediatric respiratory illnesses are a common reason for U.S. ED visits. The COVID-19 pandemic shifted the incidence and epidemiology of respiratory diseases among children, especially in the last two years, when non-COVID respiratory infections rebounded from a pandemic dip. The rebound-associated surge tested hospital and ED capacity both at community and children's hospitals. The burden on health systems and hospitals of this changing epidemiology is not well understood. This retrospective study will evaluate pediatric respiratory-illness-related ED visits and outcomes from the pre-pandemic to current year. We seek to understand how rates of serious illness may have changed, and to identify predictors of serious illness. Our primary outcome is hospitalization; secondary outcomes include intensive respiratory support and ICU admission. We will also evaluate facility- and patient-level factors associated with serious illness and patterns of health care utilization prior to ED visits for respiratory illness. Results will inform operational planning and patient outreach and educational efforts.

Status: Data collection is complete. We are doing the analysis and working on the manuscript.

### **19. Optimizing quality and safety in the era of COVID-19: Virtual care first utilization and outcomes for potentially emergent conditions among KPNC members**

Principal Investigators: **Mamata V. Kene** (San Leandro/Fremont) and **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond)

Co-Investigators: Adina S. Rauchwerger, Judy Shan, Jennifer Zhang, Mary E. Reed (DOR), Dustin G. Mark (Oakland/Richmond), Dale M. Cotton (South Sacramento), Dustin W. Ballard (San Rafael), and David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento) of the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: Garfield Memorial Fund

Summary: KPNC rapidly increased virtual care services (video and telephone visits) and decreased in-person visits in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic. How this shift in site of care affected downstream ED and hospital utilization and subsequent clinical outcomes has not been well described. In this retrospective cohort study, we will evaluate the safety and efficiency of virtual care first by examining three high-risk conditions that often require ED evaluation and hospitalization: chest pain, abdominal pain, and respiratory illness. Analysis of care-seeking behavior, utilization (telephone, video, in-person and ED visits) and outcomes for these complaints (that include likely COVID-19 illness as well as those occurring independent of SARS-CoV-2) will allow us to assess the safety and efficiency of current virtual care workflows while identifying



potential opportunities to optimize outcomes and resource utilization. Ultimately, our current understanding of how safely these urgent conditions can be managed virtually is limited, and the insights gathered herein will help shape care delivery beyond the pandemic.

Status: We presented an abstract in October 2022 at the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum: Short-term ED encounters following primary care telemedicine visits in the era of COVID-19. Our first ms was recently published in *J Gen Intern Med*: "Downstream emergency department and hospital utilization comparably low following in-person versus telemedicine primary care for high-risk conditions." This second ms has been accepted for publication.

## **20. Spinal epidural abscess: an evaluation of frequency of and risk factors for delay in diagnosis**

Principal Investigator: **Mamata V. Kene** (San Leandro/Fremont)

Co-Investigators: Sarabeth M. Macey (EM resident, Stanford); Erik R. Hofmann (South Sacramento), Meena Ghiya (South San Francisco), Edward J. Durant (Manteca/Modesto), Sean C. Bouvet (San Francisco)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: The KPNC Graduate Medical Education Program, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals

Summary: Spinal epidural abscess (SEA) is a rare condition with increasing incidence that if not promptly diagnosed and treated can lead to permanent and devastating neurologic disability. Accurate diagnosis requires mobilization of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a relatively scarce resource in emergent situations, and transfer for surgical intervention. The clinical presentation of SEA can vary, however, and many patients have multiple visits before a diagnosis is established. Delays in diagnosis, the most common complaint in SEA malpractice claims, are costly, with awards ranging from several hundred thousand dollars to multiple millions, due to the high morbidity. This retrospective cohort study will identify incidence of and factors associated with potential delay in diagnosis of SEA.

Status: We presented an abstract in October 2022 at the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum. The manuscript is in press with *West J Emerg Med*.

## **21. Utilization of CT pulmonary angiograms for PE evaluation: predictors of higher yield and comparison to national rates**

Principal Investigator: **Mamata V. Kene** (San Leandro/Fremont)

Co-Investigators: Dana R. Sax (Oakland/Richmond), David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento), Mary E. Reed (DOR), and the KP CREST Network, along with Vignesh Arasu (Radiology, Vallejo)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: This retrospective cohort study will evaluate the yield of CT pulmonary angiography (CTPA) in KPNC ED patients from 2012-2018 compared to national averages. We hypothesize that the CTPA yield will be higher in KPNC compared with non-integrated delivery systems, and will identify provider-, facility- and patient-level factors associated with CTPA use and yield rates. We will also apply natural language processing (NLP) techniques to identify whether risk stratification tools were documented in the record. The results of this study will inform future design of prospective clinical decision support for PE diagnostics that will facilitate risk stratification tool use prior to imaging ordering in hopes of optimizing CTPA use, with improvements in patient care, resource use, and department throughput.

Status: We presented an abstract of our NLP work at the 2020 Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. Analysis continues. We hope to submit the manuscript soon.

## **22. Patterns and impact of chemical restraint use for ED patients with acute psychiatric distress**

Principal Investigator: **Suzanne C. Lippert** (Oakland/Richmond)

Co-Investigators: **Mamata V. Kene** (San Leandro/Fremont), Juleon W. Rabbani and Adina S. Rauchwerger (DOR)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: Neither use patterns, nor outcomes associated with nonconsensual chemical restraints (receiving IM sedating medications) in the ED have been investigated through a disparity lens. This retrospective cohort study will include adults (and subgroup analysis limited to patients with insurance) aged 18-64 years presenting to the ED for acute psychiatric crisis from 2017-2021. We will describe patient characteristics associated with receiving chemical restraint. We also will describe the frequency of adverse outcomes occurring after chemical restraint administration during the index ED visit and delineate patient characteristics associated with adverse outcomes. We hope to better understand chemical restraint use patterns to inform the development of standardized practices for patients presenting in acute psychiatric crisis. Without standardized criteria for using chemical restraints, implicit bias may lead to different use patterns and different risks of adverse events in particular subgroups of our patients.

Status: We gave an oral presentation at the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum, Philadelphia, PA, October 2023. The ms is undergoing peer-review.

## **23. Validation of a novel algorithm for ED patients with possible acute coronary syndromes following the transition to a high-sensitivity troponin (hsTn) assay**

Principal Investigators: **Dustin G. Mark** (Oakland/Richmond) and Mary E. Reed (Division of Research)

Co-Investigators: Keane K. Lee (Cardiology, Santa Clara), Dana R. Sax (Oakland/Richmond), Dustin W. Ballard (San Rafael), Mamata V. Kene (San Leandro/Fremont), David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: The Permanente Medical Group Delivery Science Program

Summary: As part of a multidisciplinary hsTn implementation workgroup, we designed the “KPNC hsTn diagnostic algorithm” for evaluation of possible non-ST elevation acute coronary syndromes (NSTEMI-ACS) using Access hsTnI values. Our research questions are: 1) is the KPNC hsTn diagnostic algorithm internally valid, and 2) will adoption of hsTn impact resource utilization within KPNC? Our aims are to: 1) assess the predictive accuracy of the KPNC hsTn diagnostic algorithm among ED patients with possible NSTEMI-ACS for a composite outcome of 30-day AMI or death and 2) examine associations between hsTn adoption within KPNC and hospital admission rates, ED length of stay, and downstream cardiac testing among ED patients with possible NSTEMI-ACS. We hypothesize that 1) the algorithm will accurately identify patients at very low risk (< 0.5%), low risk (1-2%), intermediate risk (10-20%) and high risk (>60%) of 30-day MI or death; and 2) that hsTn adoption will not affect hospital admission rates but will be associated with decreases in ED length of stay and downstream cardiac testing as well as lower 30-day MI or death amongst discharged patients.

Status: We launched the new tool in early 2023. We published our first study with *JACC Adv*: Diagnostic performance of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I in a multicenter US ED cohort. We will be submitting the performance ms in early 2025.

#### **24. Safety of treating black widow spider envenomation with antivenom**

Principal Investigator: **Steve R. Offerman** (Toxicology Service; South Sacramento)

Co-investigators: Patrick X. Whiteley (Toxicology Service; San Jose)

Funding: None

Summary: Black widow spider (BWS) antivenom (Antivenin: *Latrodectus mactans*; Merck) is a horse serum-derived product available since 1954. Concerns about side effects and allergic reactions limit its use. There is one reported case of death following BWS antivenom. There continues to be controversy related to spider antivenom and a lack of data regarding safety. We present a retrospective, data-only cohort study of patients who received BWS antivenom after consultation from the Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) Medical Toxicology service between 9/1/2014 through 9/30/2023. The KPNC Medical Toxicology service provides consultation throughout 22 facilities in Northern California. All cases were extracted from existing Toxicology service patient logs.

Status: We have identified 57 eligible study patients. We presented an abstract of our findings at the 2024 annual meeting of the American College of Medical Toxicology in Washington, DC, in April. The manuscript is in preparation.

## **25. Ultrasound guided transgluteal sciatic nerve hydrodissection for the treatment of sciatica in the emergency department: a case control cohort study.**

Principal Investigators: **Gabriel Rose** (San Diego).

Co-investigators: Dasia Esener, Sara Amen (San Diego)

Summary: This study will evaluate the efficacy of using ultrasound-guided transgluteal sciatic nerve hydrodissection (TGSNH) to treat ED patients with a chief complaint of sciatica pain. Traditional practice patterns of emergency physicians (EP) to treat sciatica include a combination of NSAIDs, opioids, topical analgesics, and acetaminophen. Given the concerns related to opioid use in certain populations and the efficacy of acute relief, these treatments can provide, there is a need to investigate further acute treatments for sciatica pain. Ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia is within the scope of practice of EPs for the treatment of musculoskeletal pain. Specifically, ultrasound-guided transgluteal sciatic nerve block has been shown as an effective treatment of sciatica in the ED; however, safety concerns regarding the potential for falls due to motor blockade or local anesthetic systemic toxicity (LAST) due to absorption of local anesthetic cannot be overlooked. Nerve hydrodissection is a technique in which a solution (e.g. D5W) is injected circumferentially around a nerve to separate it from surrounding connective tissue, which can effectively help to alleviate pain resulting from compressive neuropathy. Unlike nerve blockade with local anesthetics, nerve hydrodissection lacks the aforementioned risks of falls and LAST. Hydrodissection has been shown in numerous studies to be an effective treatment in conditions such as carpal tunnel syndrome, cervical radiculopathy, cervicogenic headache, and more recently in a case series describing its use in sciatica. Large-scale prospective studies on this technique for the treatment of sciatica in the ED are still lacking. Here we set out to study whether TGSNH is an effective and safe method to treat patients who present with sciatica to the ED.

Status: Data collection underway

## **26. Safety and operational impacts of ED mis-triage**

Principal Investigator: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond)

Co-investigators: Dustin G. Mark (Oakland/Richmond), Mary E. Reed, E. Margaret Warton, and Adina S. Rauchwerger (KP Division of Research, Pleasanton), and the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: ED triage systems exist to sort patients based on acuity and expected resource use. Our study team previously developed and validated novel measures to identify mis-triage for patients

triaged using the Emergency Severity Index. Mis-triage can be under-triage (under-recognition of disease severity or resource needs) or over-triage. Using these measures, we estimate that one-third of KPNC adult ED patients and nearly two-thirds of KPNC pediatric ED patients were mis-triaged across KPNC from 2016-2020. In this current proposal, we will build on this work to broadly characterize the potential safety, quality, and operational implications of under- and over-triage among adult and pediatric patients. Specifically, we will conduct adjusted analyses to study the association of under-triage with delays in care and downstream patient outcomes (safety and quality outcomes) and the association of over-triage with ED length of stay and delays in care (operational outcomes). We plan to conduct a sub-analysis of the impact of under-triage specifically among patients with an ED diagnosis of severe sepsis or septic shock, for whom delays in care are associated with worse patient outcomes.

Status: Data collection ongoing

## **27. Improving safety and quality of emergency care using machine learning-based clinical decision support at triage**

Principal Investigator: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond)

Co-investigators: Dustin W. Ballard (San Rafael), Mamata V. Kene (San Leandro/Fremont), Dustin G. Mark (Oakland/Richmond), Mary E. Reed and E. Margaret Warton (KP Division of Research, Pleasanton), and the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research

Summary: To manage patient visits every year, U.S. EDs prioritize allocation of limited health care resources to patients in greatest need. Most EDs use a flawed, subjective triage system which leads to mis-triage in up to one-third of patient encounters, worsening ED crowding and contributing to delays and disparities in care. ED triage research has been largely limited, having focused on hospital admission outcomes (even though 80-90% of ED visits do not result in hospital admission), and having not included pediatric visits (which represent 1 in 4 ED visits), health equity in design or prediction model evaluation, a user-centered design, or key patient safety and quality measures. This study will address these unmet needs by creating and testing a novel digital health solution using advanced predictive analytics and patient EHR data to better prioritize patient needs and acuity in the ED setting. First, we will refine triage models that predict critical illness, hospital admission, and fast-track eligibility; then measure algorithm biases and explore strategies to improve equity in triage model predictions. Second, we will map probability thresholds for each outcome into clinically relevant triage category recommendations. Using a human factors framework, we will design, build, and evaluate clinician-facing triage clinical decision support (CDS) and build the models and CDS into our EHR to efficiently display triage recommendations as part of standard workflows. Third, in a pragmatic trial across 21 hospital-based EDs and one free-standing ED, we will assess the real-time impact of CDS, measuring timeliness of care for critically ill patients, appropriate early identification of fast-track eligible patients, and ED length of stay. In

addition, to test equity-driven model calibrations, we will assess bias by race, gender, and socioeconomic status. Overall, we aim to demonstrate how advanced predictive analytics and an effective user interface can be utilized at the point of care to improve ED triage by accurately predicting acuity and care complexity and prioritizing equity. Ultimately, our research will limit crowding, streamline operational flow, mitigate disparities, and lead to safer, higher quality care and better outcomes in the ED setting.

Status: Undertaking data collection

## 28. Assessing frequency and predictors of under- and overtriage of pediatric ED patients

Principal Investigators: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond)

Co-Investigators: **Mamata V. Kene** (San Leandro/Fremont), **Jenna Timm and Eloa Adams** (Oakland/Richmond), Tina Vitale-McDowell and Katie Rose McGauhey (ED RNs, Oakland), Mary E. Reed, E. Margaret Warton, and Adina S. Rauchwerger (DOR) and the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: ED triage systems exist to sort patients based on acuity and expected resource use. We seek to understand current triage practices of pediatric ED patients across KPNC. The study will include over one million ED patients <18 years old seen between 2016-2020. Based on input from a panel of physician and nurse experts in pediatric emergency medicine, general emergency medicine, and pediatric critical care and through iterative chart review, we will develop and clinically validate a classification algorithm to identify cases of significant mis-triage based on resource use and critical illness. We will then apply this algorithm to our full study population to estimate the frequency of significant under- and overtriage. Lastly, we will identify patient characteristics (presenting complaint, demographic data, co-morbidities, medications, and prior healthcare utilization) and setting characteristics (including time and day of visit and pediatric capabilities of facility) that are associated with mis-triage. Knowledge gained from this study will provide insight on current pediatric ED triage practices and highlight opportunities to improve triage accuracy across KPNC.

Status: We presented an abstract Society of Academic Emergency Medicine annual meeting in Austin, Texas, May 2023. A ms was recently published in *JAMA Pediatrics*: "Evaluation of Version 4 the Emergency Severity Index among pediatric emergency department patients"

## 29. ED triage of high-risk conditions

Principal Investigators: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond)

Co-Investigators: Dustin G. Mark (Oakland/Richmond), Tina Vitale-McDowell and Aaron Beardsley (RNs, Oakland), Oleg Sofrygin, Mary E. Reed, E. Margaret Warton, Adina S. Rauchwerger (DOR) and the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: The Lokahi Foundation

Summary: This retrospective cohort study will tap into the large database of all ED encounters from 2016-2020 and study patients with three potential high-risk conditions: acute coronary syndrome, aortic dissection, and subarachnoid hemorrhage. We will describe the frequency of under-triage among patients who present to a KPNC ED with one of these diagnoses, assess patient- and setting-level characteristics associated with under-triage, including presenting complaint, triage nurse free test documentation of triage assessment, patient demographics (gender, race, age, primary language, socioeconomic/ education level at county level), co-morbidity score, time of day/day of week, and facility where patient received care. Lastly, we will assess delays in care associated with under-triage of patients with possible acute coronary syndrome, aortic dissection, and subarachnoid hemorrhage, including time to initial EKG, room, placement of relevant laboratory, imaging orders, and therapeutic orders, and placement of relevant specialty consults.

Status: Data collection and analysis complete; manuscript is in peer-review.

### **30. KP-specific heart failure risk prediction: KPNC Standardizing Emergency Work-ups Around Risk Data (STEWARD) heart failure project**

Principal Investigator: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond) and Mary E. Reed (DOR)

Co-investigators: Dustin G. Mark (Oakland/Richmond), Jamal Rana (Oakland), Mamata V. Kene (San Leandro/Fremont), David R. Vinson (Roseville/Sacramento), Dustin W. Ballard (San Rafael), and the KP CREST Network, with collaborators from Vanderbilt.

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: TPMG DARE's Delivery Science Grant Program

Summary: There are over one million ED visits across the U.S. each year for acute heart failure (AHF), with an average admission rate of 84%. EDs play a major role in the care of AHF patients through symptom management, coordination of care, and risk stratification to identify sicker patients needing admission. We recently developed a clinical decision support tool to help predict AHF disease severity and in collaboration with Vinnie Liu and the Hospital Advanced Analytics Team and the HealthConnect team; the tool is now built into our EHR and ready to provide real-time risk estimates and clinical decision support. We also collected qualitative data through interviews and surveys with frontline ED providers, IT leadership, and operational and clinical leads to identify barriers and opportunities for implementation of the risk tool. We worked with cardiology and hospital-based specialist leads to develop care pathways based on patient risk.

We ran a pilot study of the risk tool with decision support in two EDs (Oakland and Richmond) to assess feasibility of extracting HF-relevant data and efficiently presenting these to ED clinicians, assess provider uptake of the tool, and assess safety of patients identified as low risk and

discharged home. We collected feedback from clinicians via interviews and surveys, and updated the tool as needed prior to regional implementation and prospective evaluation.

Status: We have published three manuscripts (mss): (1) Outcomes among AHF ED patients by preserved vs reduced ejection fraction (*ESC Heart Fail*) (2) Risk adjusted 30-day mortality and serious adverse event rates among a large, multi-center cohort of ED patients with acute HF (*JACEP Open*). (3) Barriers and opportunities regarding implementation of a machine-learning-based acute HF risk stratification tool in the ED (*Diagnostics*). A fourth ms is in press with *ESC Heart Failure: "Pilot trial of an electronic decision support to improve care for patients with acute heart failure treated in the ED."* Our fifth ms with findings from prospective validation of the risk model (STRIDE:HF) is under peer-review.

### **31. Assessment of sociodemographic disparities in management of ED patients with acute abdominal pain**

Principal Investigator: Zeenat Khan, former [KPNC Patient Safety Fellow](#)

Co: Investigators: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond) and Lue-Yen Tucker (Division of Research)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KPNC Graduate Medical Education and the Office of Risk Management and Patient Safety.

Summary: In this retrospective, data-only cohort study of adult emergency department patients with acute abdominal pain from 2019-2020, we sought to evaluate if specific sociodemographic characteristics are associated with a decreased likelihood of receiving an opioid pain reliever as part of acute pain management. After controlling for confounding variables, including severity of illness, co-morbidities, vital signs, pain score, ED disposition, as well as multiple patient sociodemographic variables, we found that Asian, Black, and Hispanic patients (compared to White patients), non-English primary language speakers (compared to English language speakers), patients > 75 years (compared to 18-30 years), and non-KP members (compared to KP members) had lower odds of receiving an opioid pain reliever.

Status: Data analysis is complete. We presented an abstract at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Scientific Symposium in 2021 and another at the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum in October 2022: Assessment of sociodemographic disparities in ED pain management. We are currently exploring strategies to standardize pain management and will soon pilot test these strategies in the Oakland and Richmond EDs.

### **32. Improving Care by Defining the Role of Electronic Health Record-Based Alerts In a Fully Integrated Health Care Delivery System for Worsening Heart Failure (IDENTIFY-WHF)**

Principal Investigators: Andrew P. Ambrosy (Cardiology, San Francisco) and Alan S. Go (Division of Research)



Co-investigators: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond), Justin J. Slade, Van N. Selby, Jana Svetlichnaya, Ankeet S. Bhatt, and Edward J. McNulty (Cardiology, San Francisco), Amir W. Axelrod (Cardiology, Vallejo), Sirtaz Adatya and Keane K. Lee (Cardiology, Santa Clara), Harshith R. Avula (Cardiology, Walnut Creek), and Howard H. Dinh (Cardiology, South Sacramento)

KP Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: The Permanente Medical Group Delivery Science Program

Summary: IDENTIFY-WHF is a prospective, virtual, parallel-group, randomized, quality improvement intervention of EHR-based alerts for WHF to improve the adoption of goal-directed medical treatments (GDMTs) within KPNC. Approximately 1,000 participants will be identified at KP San Francisco and Santa Clara Medical Centers during an index hospitalization or ED visit for WHF and randomized 1:1 to the intervention or usual care, stratified by service area and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) category. Best practice alerts will be sent to the treating outpatient provider(s) and include (1) the most recent LVEF, vital signs, and laboratory values, (2) current GDMT, and (3) eligible GDMT. Eligible GDMT will be based on regional standards and national HF guidelines and will include the Class (Strength) of and Level (Quality) of Evidence. The primary outcome is the proportion of adults experiencing WHF with an increase in the number of prescribed GDMT classes at 30 days post-discharge from the hospital or ED.

Status: We are collecting data.

### **33. Impact of fundoscopic cameras in the ED on diagnostic efficiency and accuracy for patients with vision loss**

Principal Investigator: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond), Mary Reed (DOR), and Robin Vora (Ophthalmology, Oakland/Richmond)

Co-investigators: Mubarika Alavi

Funding: DARE's Rapid Analytics Unit Program

Study sites: KP Northern California

Summary: Among adult (age  $\geq 40$  years) patients who were seen in KPNC EDs with an eligible vision-related chief complaint, this study aims to evaluate the impact of deployment of fundoscopic cameras on key process and outcome measures, including ED length of stay, need for in-person ophthalmology consultation, need for 72-hour ophthalmology follow up, and timely diagnosis of high-risk ophthalmologic conditions.

Status: Manuscript is under peer-review.

### **34. Comparing timeliness of care for women seeking contraceptive care by visit modality: in-person, telephone, video, and e-visits**

Principal Investigators: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond), Mary Reed (DOR), Eve Zaritsky (OB/Gyn, Oakland/Richmond)

Co-investigators: Jie Huang, Scott Campbell, and CREST Investigators

Funding: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Study sites: KP Northern California

Summary: Among women 18-50 years of age who had an encounter for contraception in 2023 via e-visit, in-person office visit, video visit, or phone visit with the gynecology department, we will compare timeliness of contraceptive orders and medication receipt as well as need for 7-day gynecology follow up by visit modality.

Status: Manuscript is under peer-review.

### **35. Transgluteal sciatic nerve block for treatment of sciatica in ED patients**

Principal investigator: **Drew Silver** (San Diego)

Co-investigators: Gabe Rose, Dasia Esener, Eric Abrams, and Kate Anderson (San Diego)

Study Site: KP San Diego

Summary: Our goal is to perform a case series of patients undergoing transgluteal sciatic nerve block under ultrasound guidance. In this project, rather than using traditional anesthetic agents, we will target the fascial plane with D5W to perform hydrodissection. Patients will be followed up immediately after the procedure in intervals of 30 min up to 2 hours and subsequently at 24 and 72 hr to assess effect.

Status: Enrollment is ongoing.

### **36. Evaluation of a Geriatric Emergency Department program**

Principal investigators: Vincent Liu (DOR; pulmonology, Santa Clara)

Co-investigators: Karen A Hauser (Adult hospital medicine, San Francisco), **Jeremy Swartzberg** (Oakland/Richmond), David Schlessinger (DOR), Sites: KP Northern California

Study Site: KP Northern California

Funding: A grant provided by the Dolby Family Foundation.

Summary: Geriatric Emergency Department (GED) programs are designed to improve the care of older adult patients in the ED. These programs identify higher risk older adults in the ED and target geriatric-specific assessments and interventions, with the goal of reducing morbidity and future hospital and ED utilization. For example, GED programs frequently include screening for common geriatric syndromes like falls and delirium. In 2022, we implemented a GED program in KP San

Francisco that used a multi-faceted approach to identify and treat higher-risk older adult patients (aged  $\geq 70$  years) to reduce the downstream impact of emergency care. In this evaluation, we will assess the impact of the KP SFO GED program relative to care delivered in other EDs throughout Northern California among patients who met criteria for potential GED inclusion.

Status: The GED evaluation is currently in data collection and design phase.

### **37. Physician diagnostic strategies for acute cardiovascular disease**

Principal investigator: Brandon Maughan (OHSU)

Co-investigators and study sites: Angela Jarman (UC Davis), Lauren Westafer (U Mass Baystate), Mike Pulia (UW Madison), Elizabeth Goldberg (U Colorado), Chris Baugh (Brigham), Chris Kabrhel (Mass General), Tracy Madsen (Brown), Susan Peterson (Johns Hopkins), Lauren Stewart (Indiana), and **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento)

Summary: Using a brief online survey, the study is assessing physician risk perceptions using a randomized factorial experiment via hypothetical patient cases.

Status: Surveys are nearly complete. We hope to submit a manuscript for peer review in early 2025.

### **38. Antenatal pulmonary embolism diagnostics (APED): patients, physicians and diagnostic strategies in the COVID era**

Principal Investigator: **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento)

Co-Investigators: Madeline J. Somers and Mary E. Reed (DOR), Nareg Roubinian (Pulmonology and Critical Care, Oakland), Jeffrey D. Sperling (Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Modesto), Nachi Gupta (Redwood City), Luke S. Poth (South San Francisco), Lara Zedak and Cydney Middleton (UC Davis EM residents), Sara Woldemariam (KP Oakland OB/GYN resident), Ed Qiao (California Northstate medical student), Aidan Campbell (recent NYU undergraduate), Grace Heringer and Cole Florio (UCD pre-meds), Scott D Casey (Vacaville/Vallejo), W. Bo Stubblefield (Vanderbilt), Lauren Westafer (U Mass—Baystate), and the KP CREST Network

Imaging Advisory Panel: Ryan Niederkohr (Nuclear Medicine, Santa Clara) and Thomas Urbania (Chest Radiology, Oakland)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: The diagnosis of acute pulmonary embolism (PE) is challenging, more so in pregnancy, where reducing radiation exposure is paramount. Our multispecialty team utilized the KPNC Perinatal Obstetric Database to identify 720 gravid patients undergoing PE diagnostics over 18 months. We will describe the use of D-dimer levels to direct imaging decisions; the role of compression ultrasonography to avoid pulmonary vascular imaging; and the inter-specialty

preferences for CT pulmonary angiography over V/Q scintigraphy. We will also explore issues of informed consent. Results of this large, contemporary community-based study will fill gaps in the literature and inform next steps within KPNC to direct physician education efforts to improve our approach to antenatal PE diagnostics.

Status: We published a letter in *JAMA* and presented three abstracts at the 2024 Western Regional meeting of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine and two abstracts to ACEP in early October. We published a case series in *Eur Heart J Case Rep* and a study of consent in *Acad Emerg Med*. A study of preemptive anticoagulation is undergoing peer review. We are writing a paper on radiation-reduction strategies.

### **39. Criteria for outpatient management of ED patients with acute PE: A Delphi consensus from EARTH**

Principal Investigators: Pierre-Marie Roy (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Institut Mitovasc, Université d'Angers, France) and Mathieu Servent (Resident, France)

Co-investigators: Emergency Advisory and Research board on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (EARTH), including ED PE researchers from Belgium, Canada, England, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and United States. EARTH Steering Committee: Pierre-Marie Roy and Delphine Douillet (France), Andrea Penalosa (Belgium), Federico Germini (Canada), Chris Kabrhel (MGH), **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento), **Scott D. Casey** (Vallejo/Vacaville), and William “Bo” Stubblefield (Vanderbilt)

Summary: Using a Delphi method, we identified 7d outcomes for outpatient PE research and created a set of criteria to aid in the identification of ED patients with acute PE who may be eligible for outpatient care.

Status: We presented an abstract at the annual Congress of the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis in Bangkok, June 2024: “International expert consensus on criteria to assess the safety of home treatment of patients with acute pulmonary embolism”. The manuscript is undergoing peer-review with *J Thromb Haemost*.

### **40. Improving management of ED patients with unexplained syncope: prospective validation of the Canadian Syncope Risk Score**

Principal Investigators: **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento) and Mary E. Reed (KP Division of Research)

Co-Investigators: **Dana R. Sax** (Oakland/Richmond), Howard Dinh and **Erik R. Hofmann** (South Sacramento), Jie Huang (Division of Research), Annie Ma and Tracy Nguyen (UC Davis EM residency), Leyla Farshidpour (UCSF Fresno) and the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Oakland, Richmond, Roseville, Sacramento, and South Sacramento

Funding: The Permanente Medical Group Delivery Science and Physician Researcher Programs

Summary: The Canadian Syncope Risk Score looks promising as an accurate means of risk stratifying emergency department patients with acute unexplained syncope. But it has not been validated in a diverse U.S. population. This prospective study combines the Risk Score with multispecialty treatment recommendations in a web-based clinical decision support system and test its discrimination and calibration among 5 KPNC emergency departments. If the tool performs well, we will expand its use across the region.

Status: We implemented our electronic decision-support tool in 5 EDs in early 2022. We are continuing to enroll patients and collect data. We presented an abstract describing CDS impact on physician decision-making at ACEP in October 2024.

#### **41. Clinical decision support to Optimize Care of patients with Atrial Fibrillation or flutter in the Emergency department: protocol of a stepped-wedge cluster randomized pragmatic trial (O'CAFÉ trial)**

Principal Investigators: **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento) and Mary E. Reed (Division of Research)

Co-Investigators: E. Margaret Warton, Mary E. Reed, Adina S. Rauchwerger, Jennifer Zhang (DOR), the incredible Site Leads of the KP CREST Network EDs, along with Alan Go (DOR) and Matthew D. Solomon (Cardiology, Oakland). Thanks also to our students for their work on a review of AF guidelines: Disha Bahl (St. George's University School of Medicine), and Leyla Farshidpour (UC Davis School of Medicine), and Jennifer Zhang (DOR research assistant)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: TPMG DARE's Delivery Science Grants Program

Summary: Atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter (AF) is a clinical and socioeconomic burden to the U.S. healthcare system and will only worsen with the accelerated aging of the KP membership and U.S. population. Our prior research has identified suboptimal rate, rhythm, and stroke prevention treatments across KP Northern California EDs, along with twofold inter-facility variation in hospitalization rates of ED AF patients. This study will evaluate the impact of a web-based clinical decision support tool to improve the ED management of patients with primary AF.

Status: The clinical decision support tool is in use across 16 of 21 EDs. Our methods paper was published in *Trials*. Our ms on stroke prevention was published in *JAMA Netw Open*. We are undertaking analysis on a rate reduction study. We also are working on a review of AF guidelines to see how they speak to the issues that face emergency physicians in the management of AF.

#### **42. Understanding Cold Drink Heart: A telephone-based patient survey**

Principal Investigators: **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento) and Mary E. Reed (DOR)

Co-Investigators: Daniel DiLena, Jennifer Zhang, Judy Shan, and Adina S. Rauchwerger (DOR, CREST) and Gregory Marcus (UCSF Cardiology)

Study Sites: KP Northern California and beyond

Funding: TPMG DARE's Physician Researcher Program

Summary: One means of atrial fibrillation (AF) recurrence prevention is the identification and avoidance of factors known to trigger AF. Among these is the rapid ingestion of icy cold drinks and food. Though this environmental precipitant is not well described, one recent survey from UCSF suggests this may be present in as many as 10% of patients with AF. Little research, however, has been undertaken on this condition. Eligible patients were identified through enrollment in a parent study of ED AF management. We are including patients with the condition who have written me in response to our prior publications.

Status: The manuscript will be submitted in early 2025 to a cardiology journal.

#### **43. Optimal anticoagulation strategies for patients with newly detected acute atrial fibrillation**

Principal Investigators: Bory Kea (OHSU) and **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento)

Co-Investigators: E. Margaret Warton and Mary E. Reed (DOR), Ben Sun (Penn), Rochelle Fu (OHSU), Merritt Raitt (Portland VA Medical Center), and Greg YH Lip (University of Birmingham)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Summary: In this retrospective cohort study of patients with newly-detected AF we describe the incidence, time lag, and predictors of oral anticoagulation (OAC) prescribing after an ED discharge diagnosis of new AF, determine whether validated outpatient risk stratification scores can identify a subgroup of ED patients discharged with new AF who are at high risk for stroke and death, and compare the rates of these events for patients prescribed ED OACs vs patients not prescribed OACs at their index ED visit. These results will improve our understanding of ED OAC initiation.

Status: We have presented several abstracts. The first manuscript is undergoing peer review.

#### **44. A qualitative study exploring the experiences of undomiciled adults seeking care in a large urban ED**

Principal Investigators: Nichole Zinn, LCSW (Sacramento) and **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento)

Co-Investigators: Qais Alemi, PhD, MPH, MBA (Doctoral Advisor, Department of Social Work and Social Ecology, Loma Linda University)

Study Sites: KP Sacramento Medical Center

Summary: Senate Bill (SB) 1152, implemented in 2019, requires hospitals to have a written policy and process for patients experiencing homelessness. Homelessness has increased 67% in Sacramento County since 2019 and almost half of patients experiencing homelessness in

Sacramento County have one or more chronic health conditions, mental health issues, and substance use disorders, often using the ED as a safety net. There is a dearth of research regarding the impacts of the bill and no research to date about patients' understanding and view of SB 1152. Our patient survey will provide a descriptive account of patients experiencing homelessness who visit a large urban ED; gain a nuanced understanding of this vulnerable population's needs; examine the impact, if any, that SB 1152 has had on undomiciled patients' well-being; and explore how existing social work interventions implemented in the ED could be augmented/adapted to best serve this population's needs. Our results could inform policy makers and guide social work interventions in the ED for this vulnerable population.

Status: We are working now on the manuscript.

#### **45. Extending IV Tenecteplase Beyond 4.5-hour Window for Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke**

Principal Investigator: Mai N. Nguyen-Huynh (Neurology, Walnut Creek; DOR, Oakland) **and** Jeffrey Klingman (Neurology, Location)

Co-investigators: **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento); Anne C Kim (Radiology, Walnut Creek) Molly Burnett (Neurology, Oakland); Sheila Chan (Neurology, Redwood City); Patricia Zrelak (Nursing Research); Catherine Lee (DOR); Joe Jeffrey R. Hatton (Hospital Quality and Operations); Hemali Sudhalkar (Adult Hospital Medicine, San Jose).

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: The Permanente Medical Group's Delivery Science Program

Summary: This retrospective cohort study will answer this question: In a real-world practice setting, what are the effects on stroke care processes and clinical outcomes when IV tenecteplase (TNKase) is used to treat patients with potential acute ischemic stroke presenting with wake-up stroke or within 4.5 to 9 hours from last known well?

Status: The new pathway launched June 1, 2023. We are examining the outcomes of enrolled patients.

#### **46. Characteristics of pain-related ED visits in patients with cancer receiving treatment within an integrated health system**

Principal Investigator: Raymond Liu (medical oncology, San Francisco)

Co-investigators: Andy Avins (DOR and primary care), Jenny Wei (internal medicine residency, KP San Francisco), Prince Wang (student, KP School of Medicine, Pasadena), **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento)

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: Kaiser Permanente Northern California Graduate Medical Education, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals

Summary: Adult patients with active cancer undergoing systemic therapy often have challenging symptoms from their treatment or cancer itself. One especially burdensome symptom is pain: up to 50% of patients undergoing active therapy have cancer pain. Frequently, cancer pain prompts patients to seek acute medical care in the ED for pain relief. However, some patients may be better served in a different care setting. In this retrospective cohort study, we analyze KPNC patients with active cancer who have received systemic therapy at an infusion center from 2017 to through 2019 who subsequently (<30d) visited the ED with a chief complaint of pain and were treated with opioids. We describe the study population and analyze pain characteristics prior to and at the time of the ED visit. We also examine associations between patient characteristics with the risk and outcomes of ED visits for pain. Results may help identify individuals receiving infusion center care who are at risk of short-term ED presentations for pain treatment and may help guide future studies on care gaps contributing to inadequate pain control among our patients with cancer.

Status: Data collection is underway.

#### **47. Sexual health e-visit as a tool to improve access to prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections**

Principal Investigators: Amanda Thornton, Dana Clutter (Infectious Diseases); Jacek Skarbinski (Infectious Diseases and Division of Research)

Co-investigators: Jonathan Volk, MD; Michael Silverberg, PhD; Christian Lee-Rodriguez, MD; Mitchell Luu, MD; Christine Bruno, PharmD; **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento); Anne Srisuro, MD; Joshua Nugent, PhD

Funding: TPMG's Delivery Science Program

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Summary: Despite the clinical and public health importance of testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis, and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use among at-risk individuals, STI testing and PrEP uptake rates remain low. To reduce barriers and increase access to sexual health services, the sexual health e-visit was launched in KPNC in February 2022 and is now used by our members approximately 10,000 times per month. The e-visit can be accessed through an online portal (KP.org) and allows members to obtain information on STIs, request appropriate STI testing after answering questions about sexual exposures, and self-refer for PrEP initiation. However, it remains unknown whether the sexual health e-visit increases access to care, STI testing, and PrEP uptake among at-risk individuals more efficiently and effectively than traditional office, telephone or email interactions with primary care providers and/or reduces ED utilization sexual health services. This retrospective cohort study will evaluate the role of the sexual health e-visit in members' access to sexual health services. Results will inform future e-visit development within KPNC and the use of similar platforms in other health care systems.



Status: Data collection is underway. We have been presenting preliminary findings to various departments across KPNC as well as at national meetings. The first manuscript is underway: "Access to STI testing services after implementation of e-visit."

#### 48. Predictors of early hospital discharge in patients admitted with pulmonary embolism

Principal Investigator: Nareg H. Roubinian (Pulmonology/Critical Care, Oakland/Richmond)

Co-investigators: **David R. Vinson** (Roseville/Sacramento), Mahesh J. Balasubramanian (Adult Hospital Medicine, Roseville), Mary E. Reed, Madeline J. Somers, and Adina S. Rauchwerger (KP Division of Research, Pleasanton), and the KP CREST Network

Study Sites: KP Northern California

Funding: KP Northern California Community Health Program

Summary: Increasing outpatient management of stable ambulatory clinic and ED patients has changed the population of those being hospitalized with acute pulmonary embolism (PE). With fewer low-risk patients requiring hospitalization, patients admitted are now more complex, with higher severity of illness and more serious comorbidities. This proposal will assess the contemporary characteristics of patients requiring hospitalization for acute PE (Aim 1) and identify characteristics associated with early hospital discharge (<48h) (Aim 2). In Aim 1, we will examine characteristics of hospitalized patients admitted with PE, including trends in vital signs, oxygen requirements, and diagnostic testing at admission and during hospitalization. In Aim 2, we will examine predictors of early hospital discharge vs. prolonged hospitalization at admission and on a daily basis as part of a multivariable model. These results may inform resource allocation to support early hospital discharge or even outpatient management of patients with acute PE in the future. We hope to identify processes of care associated with safe, early discharge (e.g., early discharge on home oxygen for mildly hypoxic patients) that could be streamlined in patients who experienced prolonged hospitalization to facilitate more timely discharge.

Status: We are collecting and analyzing data.

## Recent Publications (since July 2024)<sup>d</sup>

### TPMG (Northern CA)

**Ballard D, Vinson D.** [End the delay in adopting Electronic Record Exchange between EMS and EDs.](#) *Emerg Med News.* 2024;46(8):1,22.

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<sup>d</sup> A more comprehensive list of publications from the KP CREST Network can be found online: <http://www.kpcrest.net/>

**Casey SD**, Zekar L, Somers MJ, Westafer LM, Reed ME, **Vinson DR**. [In reply to Satici's letter re: predictors of low-risk PE hospitalization](#). *Ann Emerg Med*. 2024;84(3):330-331.

Source study: **Casey SD**, et al. [Embolism laterality and highest heart rate predict hospitalization of emergency department patients with acute, low-risk pulmonary embolism](#). *Ann Emerg Med*. 2023;82(3):369-380.

Rouleau SG, **Casey SD**, Kabrhel C, Long B, **Vinson DR**. [Systemic thrombolysis is still the first-line treatment for unstable pulmonary embolism](#). *JACC Adv*. 2024;3(8):101068.

Israelyan A, **Chiang J**, **Cooper KC**, **Lew VL**, Murphey GC, **Durant E**. [Isolated volar radioulnar joint dislocation with associated ulnar styloid fracture](#). *Cureus*. 2024;16(6):e61977.

Costales B, Lu Y, Young-Wolff KC, **Cotton DM**, Campbell CI, Iturralde E, Sterling SA. [Prevalence and trends of suspected cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome over an 11-year period in Northern California: An electronic health record study](#). *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2024;263:112418.

Pulcini CD, Barton DJ, Cassara M, Davis JJ, DeMasi SC, **Durant EJ**, Garg N, Greineder C, McMillian M, Paxton JH, Puskarich MA, Vogel JA, Wong AH, Sharp WW. [Assessment of an organizational effort to increase emergency medicine faculty on National Institutes of Health study sections](#). *Acad Emerg Med*. 2024;31(12):1280-1282.

Sabouri AH, Yurgionas B, Khorasani S, **Durant EJ**, Kafaie J, Hung YY, Klingman JG, Nemazie S. [Acute kidney injury in hospitalized patients with exertional rhabdomyolysis](#). *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024;7(8):e2427464.

KP DOR Spotlight: [Acute kidney injury less common than believed in patients with exercise-induced muscle tissue breakdown](#).

Chaudhry AS, Shiu JW, Varela NS, Newton GW, **Durant EJ**. [Squamous cell carcinoma of the nail bed](#). *Perm J*. 2024;28(4):103-106.

Brophy S, Combs J, **Hutchison J**. [Thermal pharyngeal injury resulting from vaping: a case report](#). *Cureus*. 2024;16(6):e61718.

**Meyers MC**. [If You Build It, They Will Come: EDs are victims of induced demand. We cannot simply build our way out of the overcrowding and boarding crisis](#). *MedPage Today*. 2024 July 23.

**Quincy Moore P**, Ellis K, Simmer P, Waetjen M, Almirol E, Salisbury-Afshar E, Pho MT. [Accessibility of naloxone in pharmacies registered under the Illinois Standing Order](#). *West J Emerg Med*. 2024;25(4):457-464.

**Sax DR**, Warton EM, **Kene MV**, **Ballard DW**, Vitale TJ, **Timm JA**, Adams ES, McGauhey KR, Pines JM, Reed ME; Kaiser Permanente Clinical Research on Emergency Services & Treatments (CREST) Network. [Emergency Severity Index version 4 and triage of pediatric emergency department patients](#). *JAMA Pediatr*. 2024;178(10):1027-1034

AHRQ's Digital Healthcare Research: [Machine Learning to Improve Patient Triage in the Emergency Department | Digital Healthcare Research \(ahrq.gov\)](#)

Parallel study of **adult** triage: Sax DR, et al. [Evaluation of the emergency severity index in US emergency departments for the rate of mistriage](#). *JAMA Netw Open*. 2023;6(3):e233404.

**Sax DR, Kene MV**, Huang J, Gopalan A, Reed ME. [Downstream emergency department and hospital utilization comparably low following in-person versus telemedicine primary care for high-risk conditions](#). *J Gen Intern Med*. 2024;39(13):2446-2453.

[Related telemedicine research](#) by Reed ME, et al.

**Sax DR, Mark DG**, Rana JS, Huang J, **Casey SD, Norris RP**, Tillage V, Reed ME. [Pilot trial of an electronic decision support to improve care for emergency department patients with acute heart failure](#). *ESC Heart Fail*. 2024;11(6):4432-4436.

[Related ED heart failure research](#) by Sax DR, et al.

**Silva F**, Gouin E, Lindholm P. [Mucosal petechiae and hemorrhage in pulmonary barotrauma in breath-hold diving: Direct observation of a suspected pathophysiologic mechanism](#). *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2024;210(10):e14-e15.

Yu E, **Silva F**, Lussier A, Lindholm P. [Lung ultrasound as an adjunct to pulse oximetry and respiratory symptoms in the diagnosis of freediving-induced pulmonary syndrome](#). *Wilderness Environ Med*. 2024;35(4):409-416.

Yu E, Valdivia-Valdivia JM, **Silva F**, Lindholm P. [Breath-hold diving injuries - a primer for medical providers](#). *Curr Sports Med Rep*. 2024;23(5):199-206.

**Vinson DR**, Rouleau SG, **Casey SD**, Stubblefield WB, Westafer LM. [Optimizing the use of Pulmonary Embolism Severity Indices in electronic clinical decision support](#). *Ann Emerg Med*. 2024;84(3):333-334.

[More CREST PE research](#)

Luijten D, Douillet D, Luijken K, et al, **Vinson DR**, Wells P, van Smeden M, Roy PM, Klok FA. [Safety of treating acute pulmonary embolism at home: an individual patient data meta-analysis](#). *Eur Heart J*. 2024;45(32):2933-2950.

**Editorial:** Kadakia KT, Bikdeli B. [Triage early discharge for pulmonary embolism: home is where the heart\(/lung\) is](#). *Eur Heart J*. 2024;45(32):2951–2953.

## SCPMG (Southern CA)

**Fuchs J, Rose G.** [Alternative treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome with ultrasound-guided median nerve hydrodissection in the emergency department.](#) *Am J Emerg Med.* 2024;84:189.e5-189.e7.

Stellpflug SJ, Stolbach A, Ghorayeb J, Magraken E, Twohey E, **Lapoint J**, deWeber K. [Cannabis in combat sports: position statement of the Association of Ringside Physicians.](#) *Phys Sportsmed.* 2024 Jul 9:1-12.

**Rose G, Fuchs J.** [Authors' response to comments regarding ultrasound-guided median nerve hydrodissection in the emergency department.](#) *Am J Emerg Med.* 2024;85:241-242

Xu J, **Silver MA**, Kim J, Mazotti L. [Using the electronic health record to provide audit and feedback in medical student clerkships.](#) *JAMIA Open.* 2024;7(3):ooae090.

### Abstract presentations at National Meetings

#### A. 2024 Research Forum of the American College of Emergency Physicians Research Forum, Las Vegas, NV.

##### KP Northern California

- **Casey SD**, Lieu T, Reed ME, Huang J, Parry DD. [Pediatric telemedicine care is associated with minimal increases in subsequent emergency department visits.](#) *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S64 [abstract 137].
- Nguyen T, Farshidpour LS, **Gupta N**, Somers MJ, Ma AA, **Hofmann ER**, **Sax DR**, Zhang JY, DiLena DD, Reed ME, **Vinson DR**, for the KP CREST Network. [Effect of Canadian Syncope Risk Score recommendations on emergency physician management of unexplained syncope.](#) *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S80-S81 [abstract 172].
- Middleton CE, Zekar L, Woldemariam ST, Qiao E, Somers MJ, **Gupta N**, **Poth LS**, Sperling JD, Roubinian NH, **Vinson DR**, for the KP CREST Network. [Radiation-sparing strategies in antenatal pulmonary embolism diagnostics: specialty-specific differences in use and effectiveness.](#) *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S81 [abstract 173].
- Qiao E, Campbell AR, Heringer GV, Florio CJ, Somers MJ, Sperling JD, Roubinian NH, **Vinson DR**, for the KP CREST Network. [Prevalence, characteristics, and outcomes of patients who decline pulmonary vascular imaging during antenatal pulmonary embolism diagnostics.](#) *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S131 [abstract 282].
- Stubblefield WB, Helderman R, Strokes N, Greineder CF, **Vinson DR**, Westafer LM. [Determinants of guideline-directed anticoagulation in emergency department patients admitted with acute pulmonary embolism.](#) *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S7-S8 [abstract 17].

##### KP Southern California

- **Fuchs J, Gonzalez-Cobos C, Esener D, Rose G.** Diagnostic Accuracy of Ocular Pathology by Emergency Physicians Comparing Ocular Ultrasound and Digital Fundoscopic Imaging. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S125 [abstract 270].

- **Schwartz A**, Hauck T. The Use of a Data Mart for the Instantaneous Availability of Emergency Department Clinical Information. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S163 [abstract 357].
- **Gonzalez-Cobos C, Fuchs J, Abrams E, Sacchi P, Esener D, Rose G.** Retrospective Analysis on the Current Use of Bedside Ultrasound in the Diagnosis of Acute Heart Failure in the Emergency Department. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S210 [abstract 471].
- Kawatkar A, Thokala P, Goodacre S, Baecker A, **Sharp A**, Redberg R, Lee M-S, Ferencik M, Sun B. Cost-Effectiveness of Early Non-Invasive Cardiac Testing for Suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2024;84(4S):S82 [abstract 175].

#### **B. 2024 World Conference on Lung Cancer, San Diego, CA.**

- Ragavan M, Somers MJ, Reed M, Dan A, Yang M, Huang T, **Vinson D**, Sakoda L, Triplett C, Liu R. Sociodemographic and clinical predictors of diagnosis of lung cancer in ED in a large, integrated health system. [PT01.17.06](#). Select "View Abstract"