

# TRANSPLANT RESEARCH FOR ENHANCING ACCESS TEAM (TREAT)

## Our Mission & What We Do

TREAT works to help more people get the care they need during the transplant process. We study how people move through each step, find what slows them down, and use data to create solutions that support patients, providers, and health systems.

We partner with patients, dialysis facilities, transplant centers, industry, policy makers, and communities to:

- Identify barriers to transplant
- Develop better data and measures of early transplant steps
- Test solutions that improve healthcare disparities and patient experience
- Evaluate state and national policies that impact transplant access and outcomes
- Share findings to support better care and policy decisions

## MEET OUR TEAM

### Team Leadership



#### Rachel E. Patzer, PhD, MPH, FAST

Director, TREAT

President & CEO, Regenstrief Institute

Professor, Indiana University School of Medicine & Fairbanks School of Public Health

**Focus Areas:** Transplant access; health services research; disparities in healthcare access and care delivery; use of real-world data to improve transplant outcomes



#### Adam S. Wilk, PhD

Deputy Director, TREAT

Associate Professor of Surgery, IU School of Medicine

Research Scientist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Health policy and health systems; quality measurement; access to specialty care; evaluation of policies and interventions to improve care and access

### Core Investigators



#### Katie Ross-Driscoll, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, IU School of Medicine

Research Scientist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Social epidemiology and health services research; disparities in liver transplant access and care quality; transplant access and outcome measurement; quality metric development and use; geospatial analysis



#### Kelsey Drewry, PhD, MA

Assistant Professor of Surgery, IU School of Medicine

Research Scientist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Health services research and health economics; impact of healthcare financing and system organization on access to high-value health care services; dialysis and kidney transplant care delivery; health disparities and policy evaluation



### Jade Buford, MPH

Epidemiologist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Health services research; social epidemiology; disparities in healthcare and chronic disease; real-world data to improve transplant access and outcomes; development, implementation, and evaluation of quality improvement programs



### Mengyu Di, MSPH

Data Scientist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Applied biostatistics and data science; health disparities and care-delivery informatics; large registry and EHR data analytics; data visualization and dashboard development; transplant access and outcome measurement



### Kristopher Huffman, MS

Data Scientist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Applied data science and analytics; clinical and surgical quality measurement; large registry and EHR data analytics; data visualization and dashboard development

## IU Clinical & Faculty Collaborators and Trainees



### Marciana L. Laster, MD

Physician, Riley Pediatric Nephrology & Kidney Diseases  
Assistant Professor, IU School of Medicine

**Focus Areas:** Pediatric kidney disease and transplantation; transitions of care; improving access to transplant for children and adolescents



### Angelitta M. Britt-Spells, PhD

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health  
Affiliate Scientist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Social epidemiology and health disparities; social determinants of health and their impact on health care access and health outcomes; disparities in access to transplantation



### Neha D. Pottanat, MD

Physician, Riley Pediatric Nephrology & Kidney Diseases  
Assistant Professor, IU School of Medicine

**Focus Areas:** Pediatric nephrology and transplant access; clinical outcomes for children with kidney disease; patient-centered care



### Jonathan A. Fridell, MD

Professor of Surgery, IU School of Medicine  
Chief of Abdominal Transplant Surgery, IU Health  
Surgical Director of Pancreas Transplant Program, IU Health

**Focus Areas:** Access to kidney and pancreas transplantation; outcomes-based research in abdominal organ transplantation; transplant selection and evaluation processes; innovative clinical and surgical approaches to improve transplant outcomes; health policy and organ allocation systems

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### Asif A. Sharfuddin, M.D.

Professor of Clinical Medicine, IU School of Medicine  
Medical Director, Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation  
Transplant Nephrologist, IU Health  
Staff Nephrologist and Transplant, VA Medical Center

**Focus Areas:** Access to kidney transplantation; outcomes-based research on kidney transplant candidates; transplant referral and evaluation processes; innovative approaches to improve allograft survival; health policy and health systems



### Josh Sadowski, MPH

PhD Candidate & Senior Data Analyst, IU Health

**Focus Areas:** Healthcare epidemiology and infection prevention; clinical risk prediction; analytics to support clinician decision-making and improve patient outcomes; quality improvement research methods; learning health systems; machine learning



### Sarah E. Huber, MD

Resident Appointee, IU School of Medicine

**Focus Areas:** Liver transplant waitlist disparities; improving transplant access; patient pathways and outcomes



### Sih-Ting Cai, PhD, MPA

Postdoctoral Fellow, Indiana University Bloomington

**Focus Areas:** Health services and policy research; organizational and hospital systems management; policy impacts on dialysis markets and insurance marketplaces; improving healthcare quality, costs, and patient outcomes

## Emory University Collaborators



### Stephen Pastan, MD

Medical Director, Emory Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Center  
Professor of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine

**Focus Areas:** Access to kidney transplantation; disparities in healthcare access and care delivery; use of real-world data to improve transplant outcomes; implementation and evaluation of quality improvement programs



### Jess Harding, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Emory University  
Associate Director, Emory Health Services Research Center

**Focus Areas:** Healthcare quality and outcomes; health disparities in diabetes and kidney disease; access to advanced-disease treatments; aging-related complication patterns; data-driven approaches to advance access and equity





### **Megan Urbanski, PhD, MSW**

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Emory University  
Affiliate Scientist, Regenstrief Institute

**Focus Areas:** Improving quality of care and outcomes in chronic illness; access to pre-kidney failure nephrology care and the kidney failure transition; patient-provider communication and complex decision-making; healthcare workforce well-being; psychosocial and ethical issues in transplantation



### **Emma Blythe, MPH**

Assistant Epidemiologist, Emory University

**Focus Areas:** Quality of care and equity in kidney transplant access; implementation science to improve health services delivery; qualitative and mixed-methods research

## **Patient Partners**



### **Vince Fontanetta**

Patient Partner

**Focus Areas:** Lived experience with kidney disease and dialysis; patient-centered insights into transplant access; advocacy for fair treatment and support of dialysis staff; policies that improve transplant care; community engagement to strengthen science and practice.