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

Research Operations & Administration



Sarah Roth, MHA, MPH

Research Manager, Regenstrief Institute

Focus Areas: Study design and implementation; research operations and project management; data quality and reporting; program evaluation; dissemination strategies to improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes.



Steven Becraft

Program Assistant III, Regenstrief Institute

Focus Areas: Research operations and coordination; stakeholder and community engagement; dissemination of research findings; scientific communication and manuscript support; information management to facilitate collaborative research.

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
Associate 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



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 Student & 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

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.