

Introducing the PHM Initiative RSST Work Group Members and Scientific Advisory Council Members

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) would like to officially announce the membership of the Risk Stratification, Segmentation, and Tiering (RSST) Work Group and Scientific Advisory Council (SciAC). RSST is a key component of the Population Health Management (PHM) Initiative and PHM Service within the broader California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Strategy. The RSST Work Group is tasked with the development of a single, statewide, transparent risk stratification and segmentation methodology with standardized risk tier criteria for Medi-Cal members. The SciAC is comprised of individuals representing Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, health care delivery systems, care management leaders, and academic medical systems. The council serves as an advisory group to DHCS and the RSST WG with a goal of guiding development of the PHM Service RSST algorithm. Ultimately, the outputs of the RSST algorithm will identify members who may benefit from broader services and interventions within the PHM Service. Please find biographies and background information below for the six (6) RSST Work Group members followed by name, role, and organization for the ten (10) SciAC members.

RSST WG Members

Jonathan Kolstad



Dr. Jonathan (Jon) Kolstad is an Associate Professor of Economic Analysis and Policy at Berkeley Haas and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is also the Co-director of the Health Initiative at the University of California (UC) Berkeley Opportunity Lab. Jon is an economist whose research interests lie at the intersection of health economics, industrial organization, and public economics. He is particularly interested in finding new models and unique data that can account for the complexity of markets in healthcare, including information asymmetries and incentives. He has studied the impact of quality information on demand, as well as intrinsic surgeon incentives.



Maya Petersen

Dr. Maya L. Petersen is a physician and Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of California (US) Berkeley. Maya's methodological research focuses on the development and application of novel causal inference methods to problems in health, with an emphasis on longitudinal data and adaptive treatment strategies (dynamic regimes), machine learning methods, adaptive designs, and study design and analytic strategies for cluster randomized trials. She is a Founding Editor of the Journal of Causal Inference and serves on the editorial board of Epidemiology.



Jacob Wallace

Dr. Jacob Wallace is an Assistant Professor of Public Health (Health Policy) at the Yale School of Public Health focused primarily on Medicaid reform and managed care. Jacob uses quasi-experimental methods to study performance differences across plans, how provider networks impact plan selection and enrollees experience care, and how managed care tools shape utilization in Medicaid. He is a health economist by training and received his PhD from Harvard University. Jacob served as a policy analyst for the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) in the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) for three years.



Anna Zink

Dr. Anna Zink is a principal researcher at Chicago Booth's Center for Applied AI where she works on their algorithmic bias initiative. Her research is focused on algorithmic fairness applications in health care, including the evaluation of risk adjustment formulas used for health plan payments. Before receiving her PhD in Health Policy from Harvard University, she worked as a data analyst at Acumen, LLC., where, among a small team of analysts, she partnered with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) on cases of Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse and helped develop fraud surveillance methods.



Michael Barnett

Dr. Michael Barnett is a health services researcher and primary care physician. Michael is an associate professor at the Harvard University Department of Health Policy and Management. His research focuses on understanding and addressing the inefficient delivery of health care in the United States in settings from doctors' offices to nursing homes. Michael's work has centered on three key areas:

- High risk prescribing and its consequences
- Understanding and improving specialty care delivery and the primary-specialty care interface
- Post-acute care and long-term care delivery in nursing homes



Alejandro Schuler

Dr. Alejandro Schuler is an industry leading statistician and mathematician who created NGBoost, the selectively adaptive lasso and prognostic adjustment, and has contributed to the development of other international recognized risk prediction models. He collaborates with domain experts to translate their questions to mathematical formalisms and bring the right methods to bear. Alejandro completed his PhD at Stanford University in 2018 and worked as a postdoc with Mark van der Laan before starting on the faculty at Berkeley. His experiences working as a data scientist at Kaiser Permanente's Division of Research and as an early employee of a health tech startup helped shape his research agenda into something with relevance beyond academia.

Scientific Advisory Council Member

Belinda Waltman, M.D.

Director of Analytics Integration
Los Angeles County Department of Health Care Services

Bhumil Shah, B. Eng.

Associate Chief Information Officer
Contra Costa Health Services

Brandon Shelton, MBA

Senior Director, Advanced Analytics Lab
Los Angeles Care Health Plan

Danielle Oryn, D.O., MPH

Chief Medical Officer/Chief Medical Informatics Officer
Petaluma Health Center, Federally Qualified Health Center

Dejene Bikila, M.S. Biostatistics

Lead Data Scientist
Partnership HealthPlan of California

Frank Song, Ph.D

Senior Director, Healthcare Informatics
Inland Empire Health Plan

Michael Crawford, MPH, MBA

Vice President, Analytics
Health Net

Neil Wenger M.D., MPH

Professor, General Internal Medicine, and Health Services Research
University of California, Los Angeles

Parag Agnihotri, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer of Population Health Services Research
University of California, San Diego

Anand Shah, MD, MSHP

Vice President, Social Health
Kaiser Permanente