



Center for Translational & Policy
Research on Personalized Medicine

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

A Letter from Center Director Kathryn A. Phillips, PhD

Dear Colleagues,

Spring is a time of "new growth", and we're excited to see the growth of personalized/precision medicine as exemplified by the recent announcement by President Obama and the White House about new funding for precision medicine.

In this newsletter, we report on "new growth" by TRANSPERS including our work with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and AcademyHealth; our ongoing work in developing a registry of payer coverage policies; media coverage of new publications; new journals and new editorial board memberships; and seven new publications.

Also, TRANSPERS debuts a new look and revised content on their NEW website. Check it out at: <http://pharm.ucsf.edu/transpers>.

And last but not least, we are pleased to report that TRANSPERS collaborator R. Kate Kelley received a leadership award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Way to go Katie!

As always, we welcome your thoughts, comments, and ideas for collaboration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathryn'.

Kathryn Phillips, PhD
TRANSPERS Center Director

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TRANSPERS "Goes to Washington"! Activities at PCORI and AcademyHealth

TRANSPERS Director Kathryn Phillips is working with the [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#) to develop potential topics for their research agenda on comparative effectiveness research and personalized/precision medicine. PCORI's mandate is to improve the quality and relevance of evidence available to help patients, caregivers, clinicians, employers, insurers, and policy makers make informed health decisions. PCORI is now the largest funder of comparative effectiveness research in the world!

Kathryn has also been named as a [Senior Scholar at AcademyHealth](#), which is the professional organization for health services research. In Kathryn's words, "The Scholar Program allows me to return to my longstanding passion - to better link research to practice and policy". She will maintain her full-time appointment at UCSF while working with AcademyHealth.

Update on TRANSPERS Registry of Payer Coverage Policies

As reported in our Dec. 3 newsflash, TRANSPERS received an NHGRI grant to develop a registry of public and payer coverage policies for new and emerging genetic tests. Read more about this work and related TRANSPERS studies at:

- [GenomeWeb](#)
- [Health Affairs Press Briefing](#) at the National Press Club where TRANSPERS co-author Julia Trosman joined a panel including representatives from CMS, VA, and PCORI as well as leading universities to discuss the recent TRANSPERS [publication](#) on personalized medicine and the application of big data to transform health care delivery, health research, and health policy

TRANSPERS Collaborators Cited in the Press

TRANSPERS Collaborator Christine Weldon was quoted in a recent article on "[The High Price of Precision Medicine](#)." In this interview, she cites TRANSPER-funded research on the seven largest payers to find out how they're covering genetic testing for their 100

million customers. The results, says Christine, came down to clinical utility.

An article by TRANSPERS collaborator James Chambers at Tufts Medical Center was cited in the [Washington Post](#) and [Wall Street Journal](#) among other media outlets. His [article](#) in Health Affairs suggests that although specialty drugs often have higher costs than traditional drugs, they also tend to confer greater benefits and hence may still offer reasonable value for money.

TRANSPERS Center Director Joins Editorial Boards for Pharmacogenomics and the Journal of Precision Medicine

Kathryn Phillips joined the Editorial Boards for [Pharmacogenomics](#), a well-established journal by Nature that is in the top 10% of pharmacology and pharmacy titles and the [Journal of Precision Medicine](#), which is a new journal with a global perspective with a mission to "Predict, Prevent, and Personalize with Precision" that will "encourage challenging debate surrounding payers, providers and regulators..... highlighting the obstacles we all face as participants of this endeavor" The Journal intends to discuss the more challenging issues and essentially try to offer solutions by allowing engagement from research through to the clinic and ultimately prioritizing the needs of the patient in the context of everything we debate. TRANSPERS founder and director, Kathryn Phillips will serve on the inaugural editorial board. To learn more and subscribe, please visit the [Journal of Precision Medicine](#).

TRANSPERS Center Recent Publications

- Phillips KA, Trosman JR, Kelley RK, Pletcher MJ, Douglas MP, Weldon CB. Genomic sequencing: assessing the health care system, policy, and big-data implications. *Health Affairs*. 2014 Jul 1; 33(7):1246-53. PMID: 25006153.
- Trosman JR, Weldon CB, Kelley RK, Phillips KA. Challenges of coverage policy development for next-generation tumor sequencing panels: experts and payers weigh in. *J Natl Compr Canc Network*. 2015 Mar; 13(3):311-8. PMID: 25736008.
- Phillips KA, Pletcher MJ, Ladabaum U. Is the "\$1000 Genome" Really \$1000? Understanding the Full Benefits and Costs of Genomic Sequencing. *Technology in Healthcare*. 2015: 1-7. PMID: 25669213
- Phillips KA, Ladabaum U, Pletcher MJ, Marshall DA, Douglas MP. Key emerging themes for assessing the cost-effectiveness of reporting incidental findings (letter to the editor). *Genetics in Medicine* 17: 314-315. PMID: 2583519
- Knight S, Mohamed A, Marshall D, Ladabaum U, Phillips KA, Walsh J. Value of genetic testing for hereditary colorectal cancer in a population-based sample. *Med Decis Making*. 2015 Jan 14. PMID: 25589525
- Douglas MP, Ladabaum U, Pletcher MP, Marshall DA, Phillips KA. Economic Evidence on Identifying Clinically Actionable Findings with Whole Genome Sequencing: An Integrative Review. *Genetics in Medicine* (in press)
- Phillips KA, Payne K, Redekop K. "Global Health Economic and Genomics", in *Global Health Economics and Public Policy*. (pending publication)