

TRANSPERS Program Overview

The Center for Translational and Policy Research on Precision Medicine (TRANSPERS) is the premier research organization for developing evidence-based information about the use of personalized medicine.

A new era of healthcare — one that diagnoses and treats disease based on a patient's DNA — is now upon us, but we know almost nothing about its practical use. We are addressing key issues around the access, quality, and value of this so-called “personalized medicine” that will help guide patients, healthcare providers, researchers, industry, and policymakers on how it can be best applied to improve health.

Launched in 2008 and based in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California San Francisco, TRANSPERS brings together a broad spectrum of experts from across the world to examine critical issues that impact the translation of personalized medicine into practice and policy. Using an evidence-based approach, we launch projects and establish working groups to explore key areas, including healthcare utilization, patient preferences, costs and cost-effectiveness, evidence development and evaluation, decision-making, and policy.

A major focus of our work is healthcare coverage, reimbursement, and policy decisions by payers. Since 2007, TRANSPERS has convened a Payer Advisory Council. This unique advisory group includes senior executives from the eight largest commercial US health plans and leading regional plans as well as thought leaders from research, policy, and government.

TRANSPERS has also convened The Global Economics and Evaluation of Clinical Genomics Sequencing Working Group (GEECS). GEECS is made up of an esteemed group of health economists and policy researchers from major institutions across the globe who have been at the forefront of the incorporation of genomics into clinical care.

Research Overview:

The TRANSPERS Center uses an integrated, interdisciplinary, and innovative approach to gather evidence about how genomic information is being translated into clinical practice and health policy. Our goal is to identify ways to harness this knowledge to improve healthcare, while also reducing waste and inefficiency. We explore critical questions about the application of personalized medicine in clinical care, including:

- Who has access to the newest technologies?
- Is access provided equally across social and economic groups?
- How do patients and providers make decisions about the use of personalized tests and/or drugs?
- What information do insurers need to make the most appropriate decisions about whether to cover personalized medicine technologies?
- How can we better design policies to encourage the most effective use of these technologies?

TRANSPERS is currently focusing on new genetic testing technologies such as multi-gene panels and high-speed sequencing of the entire genome. We are examining the implications of such testing for the health care system and society. We collaborate with world-leading experts and organizations in personalized medicine to develop projects and working groups that focus on:

- Healthcare adoption and utilization
- Preferences of patients and providers
- Costs and cost-effectiveness
- Evidence development and evaluation
- Coverage and reimbursement
- Decision-making (patient, provider, payer, government)
- Policy



Funding Organizations: TRANSPERS has been funded by the National Institutes of Health since its founding in 2008 (National Cancer Institutes and National Human Genome Research Institute). The Center has also received funding from other organizations and foundations.

TRANSPERS Leadership

Center Director and Founder: Kathryn A. Phillips

Kathryn A. Phillips, PhD, a health services researcher and health economist and leader in the application of new technologies to improve healthcare, is the founding director of the Center for Translational and Policy Research on Precision Medicine (TRANSPERS) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She is also a professor of health economics and health services research at UCSF and holds appointments in the University's Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies, and Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Kathryn focuses on the translation of new technologies into improved patient outcomes and its impact on clinical care, health economics, and health policy. Her core specialty is personalized (or precision) medicine — a new era of healthcare where medical interventions can be tailored to individual patients based on their unique genetic make-up. Her work spans multiple disciplines, including basic, clinical and social sciences, and brings together leading experts in academia, industry, healthcare, payers, and government. Kathryn led one of the earliest studies on pharmacogenomics, underscoring its potential to reduce the incidence of adverse drug reactions (JAMA, 2001). Her pioneering research on the application of health services research to personalized medicine has revealed insights on how to bridge the gap between emerging technologies and their use in the clinic. Kathryn has also conducted seminal work on HIV, as her analysis of HIV home testing informed the FDA's decision to approve the first home collection HIV test (New England Journal of Medicine, 1995).

For further information, see <http://profiles.ucsf.edu/kathryn.phillips>

For more information please visit the website or subscribe to the newsletter, both linked below.