



BRANDEIS-HARVARD

# SPIRE CENTER

SUD SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

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## Newsletter

Fall 2023



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### SPIRE CENTER: YEAR 2

We've kicked off the second year of the Brandeis-Harvard SPIRE Center, and we're excited to share news and updates with you!

Read on to learn more about our 3 SUD Systems Performance Scholars, our 2023 IRI Fellow, newly funded projects, and where you can connect with our team.

Quality  
Access  
Equity



### WELCOME, SCHOLARS!

We welcomed our first cohort of SUD Systems Performance Scholars in September with an orientation meeting hosted by the Pilot Core. The program will provide tailored mentorship from experts in the field to help shape scholars' research agendas, build research and grant-writing skills, and network with senior researchers in the field.



### **PRICILA MULLACHERY, PHD, MPH**

Asst Professor of Health Services Administration and Policy at Temple University

Her research is focused on the effect of laws and policies on health outcomes among disadvantaged populations, more specifically the mechanisms by which policies may mitigate or exacerbate existing health disparities.



### **RYAN FLINN, PHD**

Asst Professor of Counseling Psychology in the College of Education & Human Development at the University of North Dakota (UND)

Their work focuses on justice involvement, trauma, substance misuse, and infectious disease transmission in rural and remote settings.

### **PETER TREITLER, PHD, MSW**

Asst Professor at Boston University School of Social Work

His work examines interventions that engage individuals in correctional facilities, emergency departments, and primary care clinics, and the policies that support implementation in these settings.



## **2023 FELLOWSHIP IN IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TO IMPROVE SUD TREATMENT SYSTEMS**



**DR. SACHINI BANDARA**

Partnering with the Implementation Research Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, SPIRE is sponsoring Dr. Sachini Bandara for the 2-year training program, with a focus on systems performance.

Dr. Bandara is an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and she conducts research to identify communication strategies that can reduce public stigma and improve support for public health policies.



## NEWLY FUNDED RESEARCH



### **INROADS-A: INTERSECTING RESEARCH ON ADDICTION AND DISABILITY SERVICES- ALCOHOL (NIAAA 1R01AA031236)**

***MPIs Sharon Reif & Rachel Sayko Adams***

To improve health outcomes for people with disabilities, an overlooked health disparities population, this study will use complementary datasets from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and commercial and public health care claims, to investigate differences in alcohol use, related morbidity, and alcohol use disorder by disability status. Uniquely, this study will determine if disparities exist for people with disabilities regarding access, quality, and outcomes of treatment for alcohol use disorder. This study aims to inform improvements in health and wellbeing for people with disabilities by identifying where policy and practice changes are most needed.

### **TELEHEALTH IN THE TREATMENT OF ALCOHOL USE DISORDERS: IMPACT ON ACCESS, DISPARITIES, AND QUALITY OF CARE (NIAAA 1R01AA030539)**

***MPIs Haiden Huskamp & Alisa Busch***

While alcohol use disorder (AUD) is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality, and efficacious medication and behavioral treatments exist, only a small minority with AUD in the US receive any AUD treatment. Additionally, there are substantial disparities in receiving AUD care across several groups. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a worsening of the situation with both increases in unhealthy alcohol use and disruptions in care. However, one potentially positive change is the dramatic rise in use of telehealth. This study will examine how telehealth is being incorporated into AUD treatment and whether its use is associated with improved patient outcomes and equity.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **AHSR MENTORING PROGRAM**

Thank you to all who signed up to participate in the SPIRE Center mentoring program at the AHSR Conference! More information is forthcoming for mentors and mentees in coming weeks.

[Learn more about the mentoring program at previous conferences](#)

**FIND US AT THE CONFERENCE**

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATORS: SOLICITATION FOR PAPERS

Brandeis-Harvard SPIRE Center invites interested individuals to apply for funding to help support them in writing an original paper in the field of addiction health services research for publication.

[More information about proposals and requirements](#)



## PUBLICATIONS & RECENT EVENTS

Time For The DEA To Implement A Special Registration Process For Telemedicine Prescribing Of Buprenorphine



State Policies Could Impede New Efforts to Increase Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder



Racial Inequality in Receipt of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder



CHECK OUT MORE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

## EVENTS

- SPIRE Center team members presented at the **CPDD Annual Meeting**
- Multiple Center researchers attended and presented at **the International Center for Mental Health Policy and Economics (ICMPE) conference** in March 2023



ICMPE