



Brandeis-Harvard SPIRE Center

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Welcome to the Winter 2023 Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center newsletter. We are thrilled to announce our renewal by NIDA, and to debut our updated name: the **Brandeis-Harvard SPIRE Center - SUD Systems Performance Improvement Research and Engagement**. The renewal builds on a long history of rigorous research on SUD treatment delivery and payment systems.

Originally conceived in 1995, the Center has been at the leading edge of SUD systems research since its inception. Little was known then about managed care; our second iteration (2005-2013) built on the understanding that the ubiquitous use of managed care strategies had not uniformly led to the delivery of effective care.

Most recently (2015-2022) we have taken a **broad systems perspective, focused on improving the quality of care**. We made sure to engage in the real world to learn how payment and delivery system changes play out for payers, provider organizations, and clinicians. We introduced mentoring activities, including at national conferences and funded pilot papers to support early-career investigators. We hosted symposia and methods workshops, opportunities to learn from leading scientists in our field. We published and presented widely, to a broad range of stakeholders.

We are excited to have another 5 years funded by NIDA to continue this work. I am happy to pass leadership to our new Co-Directors - Dr. Sharon Reif of Brandeis University and Dr. Haiden Huskamp of Harvard Medical School - and will continue to engage as a team member. Our team has much to be proud of in the past, and will continue to be leaders in the field for years to come.

--Constance Horgan, ScD, Founding Director and Co-Investigator

We are thrilled to continue the work in this renewal. The Brandeis-Harvard SPIRE Center will continue to serve as a national resource to inform research, policy, and practice. Our **Research Core** uses an interdisciplinary approach to **improve the efficiency and quality of care using new models of delivery and payment**. We will pay special attention to settings and payers that are increasingly central to the SUD treatment system, such as **low barrier treatment settings and Medicaid managed care, and highlight health care equity and sustainability of innovations**.

Our engagement with stakeholders will be bidirectional, in our new **Policy and Dissemination Core**, as we seek to address emerging issues and create relevant and timely products. Our audience reaches well beyond the academic world, and our Center is committed to producing widely accessible output that helps to create action.

We have expanded our support of early career investigators with a new **Pilot/Mentoring Core**. We will continue popular activities such as a mentor-matching program at national conferences, funding mentored pilot papers, and methods and other targeted webinars. In addition, we will sponsor several SUD Systems Scholars and collaborate with the Implementation Research Institute to sponsor a Fellow in SUD systems and implementation science.

With a long legacy of innovative work behind us and many more pressing questions ahead,

we look forward to continued engagement and opportunity. Read on to learn more about the SPIRE Center and what we've been up to.

--Sharon Reif, PhD, and Haiden Huskamp, PhD, Co-Directors

Meet the team



Sharon Reif, PhD
Co-Director (Brandeis)



Haiden Huskamp, PhD
Co-Director (Harvard)



Constance Horgan, ScD
Founding Director and Co-
Investigator (Brandeis)



Madeline Brown
Project Manager (Brandeis)



Alisa Busch, PhD



Robert Dunigan, PhD

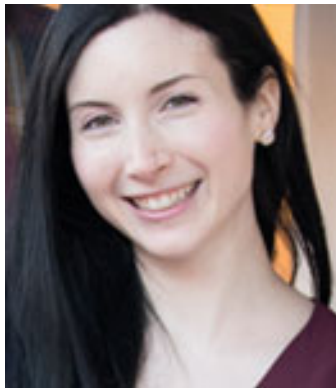
Co-Investigator (Harvard/McLean
Hospital)



Richard Frank, PhD
Co-Investigator (The Brookings
Institution)



Dominic Hodgkin, PhD
Co-Investigator (Brandeis)



Lauren Riedel, MPH
Project Manager (Harvard)

Co-Investigator (Brandeis)



Traci Green, PhD
Co-Investigator (Brandeis)



Sharon-Lise Normand, PhD
Co-Investigator (Harvard)



Maureen Stewart, PhD
Co-Investigator (Brandeis)



Cindy Thomas, PhD
Co-Investigator (Brandeis)

Upcoming events



Join the SPIRE Center on February 17 at 2:30pm Eastern for an AHSR webinar, [Tips to Launch a Successful Career for Early Investigators](#). Moderated by Drs. Haiden Huskamp and Alisa Busch, This interactive workshop includes a panel of researchers from a variety of settings (e.g., academia, research/consulting firms) and career stages to give "nuts and bolts" guidance to new researchers interested in learning more about opportunities for research careers both in and beyond academia.



Center researchers will present at the International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics' [Sixteenth Workshop on Costs and Assessment in Psychiatry - Mental Health Outcomes, Services, Economics, and Policy Research](#): March 24-26, Venice, Italy.



The SPIRE Center will soon invite faculty and researchers new to addiction health services research and from backgrounds underrepresented in the field to participate in a 1-year SUD Systems Performance Scholars program. Applications will be due in April and more information will be distributed soon.

Recent events

On January 25, 2023, Center researcher Dominic Hodgkin presented on a panel regarding payment and financing at a virtual meeting highlighting health economics research at the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). A recording will be available on [NIMH's YouTube](#) in the future.



Center Co-Director Haiden Huskamp presented during a panel discussion, "[Worsening Faster Than It's Improving: The U.S. Mental Health Care Delivery System](#)"



Center researchers Sharon Reif, Maureen Stewart, and Constance Horgan published [on payment and financing for screening and brief intervention in adolescents](#).



Recent center publications

[Telemedicine use and quality of opioid use disorder treatment in the US during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Residential treatment and medication treatment for opioid use disorder: The role of state Medicaid innovations in advancing the field](#)

[Use of telemedicine for buprenorphine inductions in patients with commercial insurance or Medicare Advantage](#)

[Initiating opioid use disorder medication via telemedicine during COVID-19: Implications for proposed reforms to the Ryan Haight Act](#)

[A cohort study examining changes in treatment patterns for alcohol use disorder among commercially insured adults in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Integration of pharmacotherapy for alcohol use disorder treatment in primary care settings: A scoping review](#)

[Perspectives of patients receiving telemedicine services for opioid use disorder treatment: A qualitative analysis of user experiences](#)

[Patient and clinician characteristics associated with use of telemedicine for buprenorphine induction among Medicare beneficiaries](#)

[What policies the US Food and Drug Administration should pursue in response to the addiction and overdose crisis](#)

[A methodology for identifying behavioral health advanced practice registered nurses in administrative claims](#)

[Effects of high-deductible health plans on enrollees with mental health conditions with and without substance use disorders](#)

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