

The Center for Home Care Policy & Research, established in 1993, conducts scientifically rigorous research to promote the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective care in the home and community. To date, the Center has been awarded over \$60 million in federal and private grant and contract funding, evolving into a multi-functional scientific research and evaluation team informing VNS Health, local, national, & international health policy, science & evidence-based practice.

**NEW AND NOTABLE:**

- Research Project Manager Nicole Onorato received her Master in Public Health degree from George Washington University Milken Institute of Public Health
- Research Analyst Sasha Vergez received her Master in Public Health degree from CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy
- Research Project Manager Sonia Cheruvillil received the Dean’s Dissertation Award for Mixed Methods at the CUNY School of Public Health for her doctoral dissertation “*A Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding the Links between Mining, Climate Change and Selected Health Outcomes in India*”

**NEW PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS in 2024 to date:**

- National Institute on Aging (NIA) R01 (Resubmission) (Massimo/**Riegel**) *iCare4Me: Improving Self-Care in Caregivers of Persons with Frontotemporal Degeneration* (\$233,465)
- Trinity Wall Street Philanthropies (**Oberlink**) *St. Margaret’s Research Project* (\$34,962)
- New York Retirement & Disability Research Center (**Cheruvillil/Ryvicker**) *Incongruent Identity Documents (IIDs) Among Transgender and Nonbinary Populations and Structural Implications for Access to Social Security Benefits, Disability Insurance and Healthcare* (\$99,979)
- University of Pennsylvania Intramural Grant (Song/**McDonald**) *CARE-IN (Communication Enhancement and Respectful Engagement for Improved Nurse-patient Interactions)* (\$15,000)

**STATUS OF OTHER GRANT PROPOSALS:**

- 2 proposals from 2023 still under review, \$614,701 in total requested funding

**ONGOING EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH & EVALUATION STUDIES:** 29 active studies in 2024. 28 still active.

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS:** 15 manuscripts published so far in 2024, with 4 more under review.

10 scientific presentations given or scheduled for presentation at upcoming conference.

**FEATURED ARTICLES**

Original Manuscript



**Using Natural Language Processing to Identify Home Health Care Patients at Risk for Diagnosis of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias**

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Miriam Ryvicker<sup>1</sup>, Yolanda Barrón<sup>1</sup>, Jiyoun Song<sup>2</sup>, Maryam Zolnoori<sup>3</sup>, Shivani Shah<sup>1</sup>,  
 Julia G. Burgdorf<sup>1</sup>, James M. Noble<sup>4</sup>, and Maxim Topaz<sup>1,4</sup>

- This study used clinician notes to validate a natural language processing (NLP) system specially developed for the home health care setting to identify signs and symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD) among home care patients.
- The paper demonstrates how, among patients admitted to home care without an established ADRD diagnosis, the ADRD signs and symptoms detected via NLP can help to identify patients in need of evaluation for ADRD.

## Variation in Home Healthcare Use by Dementia Status Among a National Cohort of Older Adults

Julia G. Burgdorf, PhD,<sup>1,4,5</sup> Katherine A. Omstein, PhD, MPH,<sup>2</sup> Bian Liu, PhD,<sup>3,5</sup> Bruce Leff, MD,<sup>4</sup> Abraham A. Brody, PhD, RN, FAAN,<sup>5</sup> Catherine McDonough, MS,<sup>3</sup> and Christine S. Ritchie, MD, MSPH<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Home Care Policy & Research, VNS Health, New York, New York, USA.

<sup>2</sup>Center for Equity in Aging, The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Population Health Science and Policy, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, New York, New York, USA.

<sup>4</sup>The Center for Transformative Geriatric Research, The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

<sup>5</sup>Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, New York University Meyers College of Nursing, New York, New York, USA.

<sup>6</sup>Mongan Institute for Aging and Serious Illness, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

\*Address correspondence to: Julia G. Burgdorf, PhD. E-mail: [julia.burgdorf@vnshealth.org](mailto:julia.burgdorf@vnshealth.org)

- Findings highlight home health care's importance as a care setting for community-living people living with dementia (PLwD) and indicate the need to identify care delivery patterns associated with positive outcomes for PLwD. The information can be used to design tailored home health care clinical pathways for this patient population.

### INTERNAL RESEARCH BRIEFS

Date: Feb 22, 2024

Challenges and Lessons in the Home-based Nursing Clinical Practice of Gender Affirming Surgical Care: A Qualitative Assessment

Attendees: GAP leadership team



Date: March 27, 2024

Live Discharge from Hospice: Results and Implication of Five Studies Conducted by Research Center Staff

Attendees: Hospice Leadership Team



Date: April 12, 2024

Helping LGBTQ+ Older Adults Age in Place: Findings from Focus Groups with NYC LGBTQ+ Residents

Attendees: Two VNS Health Board Members and Development Staff



Date: May 15, 2024

The Omaha System – Standardized Terminology for Documentation

Attendees: 80 attendees from Science and Technology, Quality, Operations

