



## Summer salutations from the JRP

We hope you are enjoying the summer sunshine and staying cool in the heat. While schools are out of session and vacation season is upon us, the JRP continues to work tirelessly to further our learning, develop new resources, and share our work with the research community.

In this issue, we highlight the experience of JRP members who attended the CHOP Short Course on Multilingual Approaches to Research Studies (MARS). Insights from this course will inform updates to the JRP's [Language Interpretation Guide](#). We continue to fine-tune and circulate resources for community engagement and payments to research participants. Finally, we have presented posters and seminars—on Zoom, at Penn, and beyond—to share [our findings](#) widely.

Please read on for more about these exciting new developments. Have questions about the work we're doing? Let's chat! We're here all summer for your Practicing Equitable Research and Knowledge Sharing (PERKS) needs and would be happy to schedule a call with you. Just email us at [JRP@pennteam.upenn.edu](mailto:JRP@pennteam.upenn.edu).

---

## Spotlight on language access



*JRP Members Arleen Lopez (left) and Dorothy Sheu (right) with MARS Short Course instructor Katherine Yun (middle).*

## The Short Course on MARS

In May, JRP members **Arleen Lopez** and **Dorothy Sheu** attended [The Short Course on Multilingual Approaches to Research Studies](#) (MARS) through the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

This three-day training took place at the CHOP Roberts Center for Pediatric Research in Philadelphia. Participants from around the US attended to learn from an expert leadership team that includes **Priscilla Ortiz, PhD, CMI-Spanish** (certified healthcare interpreter and researcher), **Robert Schrauf, PhD** (linguist and anthropologist), **Katherine Yun, MD MHS** (researcher and pediatrician), and **Nadège U. Mudenge** (clinical research coordinator). Topics of the training ranged from multilingual population-health survey design and analysis to selecting a translation protocol.

A highlight for Arleen and Dorothy from this highly interactive, inclusive, interdisciplinary training was when attendees role-played working with a language interpreter.

Participants in this role-play were provided an informed consent form and told to recruit a patient. With the consent form in hand, they entered a room with a (fake) patient and (real) language interpreter. They greeted the patient, introduced the study, and went through the consent form with the assistance of the interpreter. Participants and instructors in the course provided feedback after the exercise:

*Did you speak directly to the patient? How did you position yourself relative to the patient and interpreter? Did you use plain language? Avoid jargon? Say one thought at a time?*



## What's next?

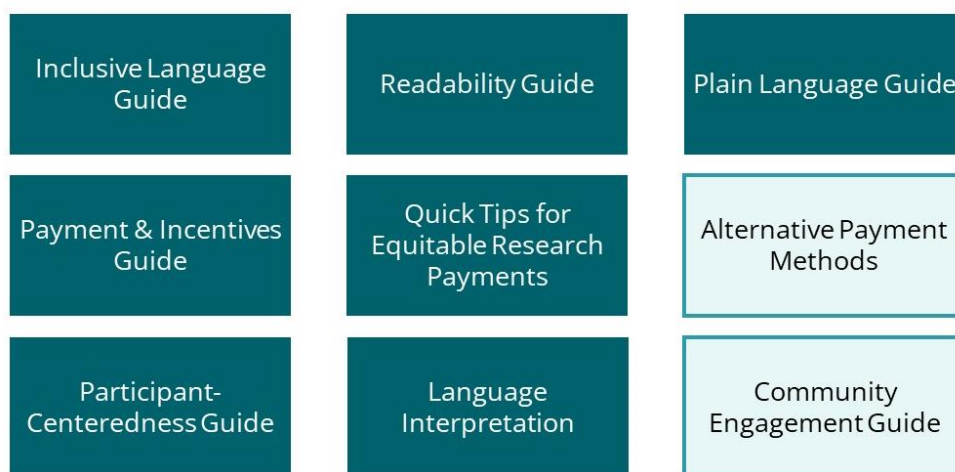
Following this course, the JRP will enrich our [Language Interpretation Guide](#) with best practices for managing conversations, ensuring message clarity, and respecting linguistic differences.

Arleen and Dorothy will share more at the upcoming **CHIBE Roybal Retreat** this Fall with their presentation: *Enhancing Inclusivity in Research: JRP's Best Practices for Working with Language Interpreters*. **We hope to see you there!**

For more information about the Short Course on MARS or future offerings, contact: [shortcourseonMARS@chop.edu](mailto:shortcourseonMARS@chop.edu)

---

## The JRP Toolkit is expanding!



### Community engagement in research

The JRP is developing a guide on incorporating community engagement into our research practices.

**Thank you** to the members of the CHIBE and PAIR communities that volunteered their time to review the guide and provide suggestions during our Zoom feedback sessions this July. We look forward to incorporating your new ideas and publishing the guide on the [CHIBE](#) and [PAIR](#) websites in the coming months.

### Alternative payment methods

At Penn, multiple methods exist to pay a study participant, though most studies use reloadable debits cards, called ClinCards. Often researchers are not sure if there are other options that may be more accessible to their study populations. The JRP has developed a guide for paying research participants using these ClinCard alternatives.

**Read on for one researcher's experience paying research participants!**

---

## Need assistance? Request a PERKS Call!

We're dedicated to supporting research teams in **real-time** to conduct studies that are inclusive and accessible. This is why we offer **PERKS Calls: Practicing Equitable Research and Knowledge Sharing**. We use PERKS Calls to address your questions, implement equitable strategies, and connect you to relevant resources.

## What are people saying about PERKS?

**Stefanie Hinkle, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, met with JRP members to navigate questions related to participant compensation for a new study that will assess the diet quality and health status of the community living in the Cobbs Creek neighborhood of West Philadelphia.



*"Emma and Adina were extremely helpful in helping me understand the pros and cons of the different options. After we settled on physical ClinCards, Emma even shared example FAQs from another study of theirs that was very helpful for the development of an FAQ sheet for our project. They were incredibly responsive and informative. This was a great resource to have in setting up a new study."*

~Stefanie Hinkle

To discuss ClinCards and other options for paying research participants, schedule a PERKS Call with us **today!**

[Request a PERKS Call](#)

---

## Check it out: The JRP for Penn Medicine News



### A Penn team's push to make research more inclusive

Penn's Palliative and Advanced Illness Research (PAIR) Center is working to bring more underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds into their research, and to train AI models to be free from bias.

From Penn Medicine News · May 13, 2024

In May, **Rachel Kohn** and **Adina Lieberman** discussed the work of the JRP in a feature for Penn Medicine News.

In addition to sharing information about the JRP Toolkit of resources, Rachel offered insights on hot topics in research, such as artificial intelligence, or AI. Regarding the use of AI models in clinical decision making, Rachel shared concerns about biased data being fed into AI models for clinical decision making:

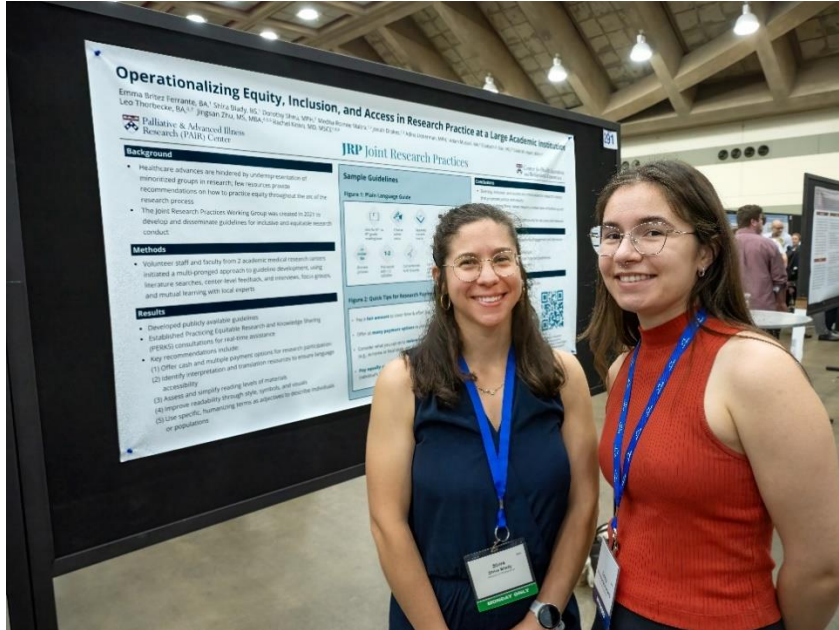
*"One major concern about this process is that clinicians rarely know the source of the data and assume that they should take the decision support recommendation at face value without pausing to consider the algorithm inputs. 'Algorithmic bias' is a hugely burgeoning field trying to address this very issue."*

[Read the article](#)

---

## Recent events

The JRP aims to communicate our findings far and wide. These past few months, we have certainly hit our marks! Thank you to all who has come out to see us present, shared our work with a colleague, or suggested a new avenue by which we could circulate our resources.



**Emma Britz Ferrante** and **Shira Blady** presented posters at the Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting in Boston, MA on May 17, and the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting in Baltimore, MD on July 1. *(Photo by Hoag Levins)*



**Arleen Lopez** and **Brigit Joseph** presented a poster at Department of Medicine Research Day at the Perelman School of Medicine on June 11.



# JRP

### **Our Mission**

To promote research conduct based on shared principles of racial justice, equity, and inclusion.

### **Our Objective**

To develop and disseminate evidence-based, best practices and guidelines for the conduct of inclusive and anti-racist research that advances the science and practice of health equity.



Our team has completed a number of presentations for groups across Penn and beyond, including the Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Division and the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Informatics at Penn Medicine, and the Department of Oral Medicine at the University of Washington. **Thank you for having us!**

## **Interested in having the JRP present for your group?**

Reach out to us at [JRP@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:JRP@penncare.upenn.edu).

---

## **Thank you to our departing JRP members!**

### **Katy Tanis**

Katy has worked on Dr. Aaron Schwartz's team in CHIBE/MEHP since October 2022 and joined the JRP in March 2023. During her time with the JRP, she has been a key collaborator in the upcoming Community Engagement Guide and the email newsletter.

We wish Katy the best of luck as she begins law school at Saint Louis University this Fall!



## Emily Blaum

Emily began at PAIR in July 2023 as a member of Joanna Hart's team. In October 2023, she joined the JRP, and has since served as a "JRP buddy," onboarding new PAIR staff with JRP resources. She also worked with Katy on the Community Engagement Guide.

We are so excited for Emily to continue her journey in medical school at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine this Fall!



---

## Relevant publications

Clancy CB, Heath JK, Winston A, Lee JT, Kohn R. Targeting Racial Inequities in Inpatient Pulmonary Specialty Care Access. *NEJM Catal Innov Care Deliv.* 2024; 5(6).

<https://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.24.0025>

---

## Calling all readers

Have you...

- **Learned lessons** about equitable research practices from your work?
- Created or discovered **a helpful resource** that could benefit others in promoting fairness in their research?
- Recently **published or presented** on an issue related to research equity & inclusion?

**[Tell us about it](#) to be featured in our next newsletter!**

---

Published on behalf of the Joint Research Practices Working Group of the Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics and the Palliative and Advanced Illness Research Center at Penn Medicine.

Received this email as a forward?

Update your subscription preferences [here](#).