Academy News

Fellow Highlights


**Kristen Choi**, PhD, RN, former Jonas Policy Scholar, published a perspective titled “A Nursing Researcher’s Experience in a COVID-19 Vaccine Trial” in *JAMA*. Read more about her experience [here](#).

**Maria Shirey**, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, ANEF, FACHE, FNAP, FAAN and **Connie White-Williams**, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, co-authored an article titled “Caring for Underserved Patients with Heart Failure during the COVID-19 Pandemic” in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. Read more about their work at The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing Heart Failure Transitional Care Services for Adults (HRTSA) Clinic [here](#).

News & Updates from National Organizations


**The Atlantic** published an article titled “‘No One Is Listening to Us’: More people than ever are hospitalized with COVID-19. Health-care workers can’t go on like this.”

The **Biden-Harris Transition** announced additional COVID-19 Advisory Board Members including a nurse, Jane Hopkins, RNMH.

**International Council of Nurses (ICN)** released a statement titled “ICN calls for establishment of HERO funds to place health education at the heart of COVID-19 economic recovery plans.” ICN released a statement titled “ICN statement on Health Worker Infections and Deaths.”

Kaiser Health News (KHN) published an article titled “Farmworkers, Firefighters and Flight Attendants Jockey for Vaccine Priority.” KHN published a commentary titled “It’s Time to Scare People About COVID.”

Mental Health America released the results of a recent survey on “The Mental Health of Healthcare Workers in COVID-19.”

The New York Times (NYT) published an article titled “The Elderly vs. Essential Workers: Who Should Get the Coronavirus Vaccine First?”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) released a webinar titled “Vaccines: The Realities of the Next Steps.” NAM will host a webinar titled “Webinar on COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence” on December 18 at 11:30 AM ET. NAM released a consensus study report titled “Rapid Expert Consultation on Critical Issues in Diagnostic Testing for the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) published a press release titled “National Academies Launch New COVID-19 Strategic Science Initiative.” NASEM will also host a webinar titled “Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in the Era of COVID-19: With a Special Focus on the Impact of the Pandemic on Communities of Color: A Workshop (Part 3)” on December 14th at 1pm ET.

The World Health Organization (WHO) released an overview of the COVID-19 candidate vaccines. WHO published a checklist titled “Checklist to support schools re-opening and preparation for COVID-19 resurgences or similar public health crises.”

Federal Government Response

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- ACL will host a webinar titled “ACL/CMS Webinar 1/14/21: Reducing Food Insecurity and Nutrition-Related Chronic Diseases During COVID Among Medicaid HCBS Beneficiaries” on January 14 at 3:00 PM ET.
- ACL published a press release titled “Telehealth During a Pandemic: Maintaining Accessible Services.”
- ACL announced: “Two New COVID-19 Resources for the Disability Community.”
- ACL published a webinar titled “How Wyoming’s Tech2Connect Addresses Social Isolation Among Older Adults.”
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC released a statement on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. For more information, read about the interim recommendations.
- CDC released the transcript for CDC Telebriefing on the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- CDC released the transcript for CDC MEDIA TELBRIEFING: Update on COVID-19.
- CDC released the transcript for CDC Telebriefing on the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- CDC continues to update data on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the United States.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS announced comprehensive steps to increase the capacity of the American health care system to provide care to patients outside a traditional hospital setting amid a rising number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) hospitalizations across the country.
- CMS urged nursing home staff, residents and visitors to follow established guidelines for visitation and adherence to the core principles of infection prevention. These guidelines include remaining six feet apart from individuals, wearing a face covering, and limiting the number of visitors in the nursing home at any one time.
- CMS released the nursing home COVID-19 training data with an urgent call to action.
- CMS continues to hold calls with clinicians, hospitals, other facilities, and states in an effort to keep stakeholders updated on COVID-19 efforts. Find more general information on COVID-19.

Department for Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS announced that it will distribute $523 million in second round performance payments to over 9,000 nursing homes. These nursing homes are being rewarded for successfully reducing COVID-19 related infections and deaths between September and October.
- HHS issued a fourth amendment to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to increase access to critical countermeasures against COVID-19.
- HHS and Department of Defense (DoD) announced the purchase of 650,000 additional treatments courses of Eli Lilly and Company’s investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic, bamlanivimab, to be delivered in December and January for treatment of non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- HHS published a press release titled “Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations Choose How They Will Access the COVID-19 Vaccine.”
- HHS announced plans to allocate initial doses of Regeneron’s investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic, casirivimab and imdevimab, which received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on November
21, 2020, for treatment of non-hospitalized patients with mild or moderate confirmed cases of COVID-19 at high risk of hospitalization.

- HHS and DoD awarded an $11.6 million contract to Puritan Medical Products Company, LLC, to expand domestic production capacity of Cue Sample Wands, the nasal swabs used exclusively with the COVID-19 cartridge-based molecular testing system developed and manufactured by Cue Health, Inc.

- HHS published a press release titled “HHS Provides $25 Million to Siemens Healthineers to Develop and Produce COVID-19 Antigen Diagnostic Tests.”

- HHS published a press release titled “HHS Launches Pilot Program of Fast Molecular POC Test for COVID-19.”

- The Office of Minority Health (OMH) published a blog titled “Honored to serve my Community, Tribe, and Country during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

- HHS published a press release titled “HHS Seeks Public Input on Leveraging Novel Technologies for Chronic Disease Management for Aging Underserved Populations.”

- HHS Secretary Azar released a statement on the Moderna Vaccine Announcement.

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

- FDA published a press release titled “FDA Authorizes First COVID-19 and Flu Combination Test for use with home-collected samples.”


- FDA published a press release titled “FDA Authorizes Drug Combination for Treatment of COVID-19.”

- FDA released a statement titled “FDA’s Ongoing Commitment to Transparency for COVID-19 EUAs.”

- FDA published a press release titled “FDA Authorizes First COVID-19 Test for Self-Testing at Home.”

**Indian Health Service (IHS)**

- RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA, Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service and Director of IHS released a statement on the development of new COVID-19 vaccines.


**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

- NIH published a press release titled “NIH-funded tool helps organizations plan COVID-19 testing.”


- NIH published a press release titled “Promising Interim Results from Clinical Trial of NIH-Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.”
It is imperative, as we begin the holiday season's festivities with the first evening of Hanukkah last night, that we remain vigilant in our duty to protect ourselves and our communities by wearing masks, social distancing, and getting the flu vaccine.

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Academy President

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