



Celebrating our patient partners

Virtual patient engagement: 'A safe place' to be ourselves

Kaiser Permanente Washington member Kathryn Ramos shares her experience as a patient partner on the Integrated Pain Management Program



Launched just before the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, the ACT Center's [Integrated Pain Management \(IPM\) Program](#) at Kaiser Permanente Washington was built to incorporate the voices of patients in the design of a safe, whole-person approach to providing care for people with persistent pain. After several years of successful online collaboration, the IPM Program's team of patient partners and researchers are **sharing what they learned about working together virtually in a [new paper](#)** published in *Research Involvement and Engagement*.

Kathryn Ramos, a longtime Kaiser Permanente member who lives with ongoing pain, was among the team of patient partners and ACT Center researchers who authored the paper. In [this Q&A](#), she talks about why she chose to participate in the IPM Program, what it was like to collaborate virtually, and what she hopes other researchers will prioritize as they engage patients and communities in the future.

[Read Kathryn's Q&A](#)

Gratitude for our partnership and impact



“ Research led by the patient perspective and centering lived experience is at the foundation of promoting equity and making a lasting impact. We are deeply grateful to each of the Integrated Pain Management partners for their ongoing commitment and leadership of our project. ”

Sunday Brush, ACT Center patient engagement coordinator, on behalf of the ACT Center team

Spotlight on health equity

Partnering to advance health equity in the safety net

Kelsey Stefanik-Guizlo shares promising equity work being led nationwide by state-based grantees in the Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net



The ACT Center's Kelsey Stefanik-Guizlo serves as a coach working alongside grantees in the [Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net](#), a national initiative to **improve integration of primary care and behavioral health through policy and practice change in safety net settings**. Over the past 6 years, the Delta Center has awarded nearly \$5 million in grants across 19 states through its [State Learning & Action Collaborative](#).

With the initiative winding down, Kelsey recently joined Delta Center grantees, coaches, and national partners in New Orleans to exchange key insights and lessons learned in the team's final in-person convening. In [this blog](#), Kelsey talks about the many ways grantees are continuing their **promising work to cultivate policies and practices that advance health equity** and promote patient centeredness to benefit the millions of people who receive care in the safety net.

[Read Kelsey's blog](#)

Resources for integrating health equity in research projects

The ACT Center is excited to share 2 new checklists created to support our goal of advancing equity in the design and conduct of health care research

The latest additions to the ACT Center's [public resource library](#) are 2 checklists designed to help **embed equity principles in research projects** and other activities that take place in a health care research environment. Both checklists are available for you and your organization to adopt or adapt for use in your specific setting.



Checklist for Inclusive Communications

[This checklist](#) provides guidance on language and design choices that promote inclusivity in communications to health care collaborators, patient partners, the scientific community, and the general public.

[Download the checklist](#)



Project Lifecycle Checklist: Integrating Health Equity

[This checklist](#) covers key questions, example activities, and resources that can help ensure equity is integrated into all phases of a research project — from scoping and planning to analysis and dissemination.

[Download the checklist](#)

Project highlights

How can advanced analytics support learning health systems?

The ACT Center's Claire Allen, Yates Coley, and Sophia Mun explored this question at the recent HCSRN annual conference

The Health Care Systems Research Network (HCSRN) 2024 conference included a panel presentation on how the ACT Center leverages advanced analytics to improve care through the Learning Health System Program at Kaiser Permanente Washington.

Claire Allen, Yates Coley, and Sophia Mun (pictured top to bottom) joined Shane Mueller from the Kaiser Permanente Colorado Institute for Health Research to discuss the infrastructure, workflow, and methods behind the ACT Center's advanced analytics program. The team also shared a case study on using advanced analytics to develop and validate a risk model to guide COVID-19 treatment decisions at Kaiser Permanente Washington.



[View slides from the presentation](#)

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We at the Center for Accelerating Care Transformation would like to acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands and traditional territories of the Puget Sound Coast Salish People.



Kaiser Permanente Washington
Health Research Institute

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Masthead photography and design by Robert Frazier.

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