

# MacColl Center for Health Care Innovation update

SPRING 2021

## Planning for the work ahead: Will you give us your input?

Hello, friends and colleagues! I hope you've been enjoying the warmer weather, extended daylight, and new signs of life that come with the season. This year, spring feels especially welcome, as we move on from the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and see more of our friends, colleagues, and loved ones becoming eligible for the vaccine. Hope is in the air, but there is still so much work to do to improve health equity, advance social justice, and meet the physical and mental health needs of communities nationwide. I hope you are finding your way through that mix of optimism and exhaustion as we head into summer.



A scene from the recent Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. Photo by the MacColl Center's Robert Frazier.

In our [last newsletter](#), I mentioned that the MacColl Center is exploring ways to evolve and grow our work to better address these issues and to keep pace with our changing world. One of our primary goals is to better serve you – our partners and collaborators across the country – in your efforts to transform care. In that spirit, we are eager to learn more about your needs, interests, and the resources that you currently find most helpful.

If you can spare 5 minutes over the next few weeks, **please share your input with us via this [4-question survey](#)**. And as always, please feel free to email us your thoughts any time at [maccoll@kp.org](mailto:maccoll@kp.org).

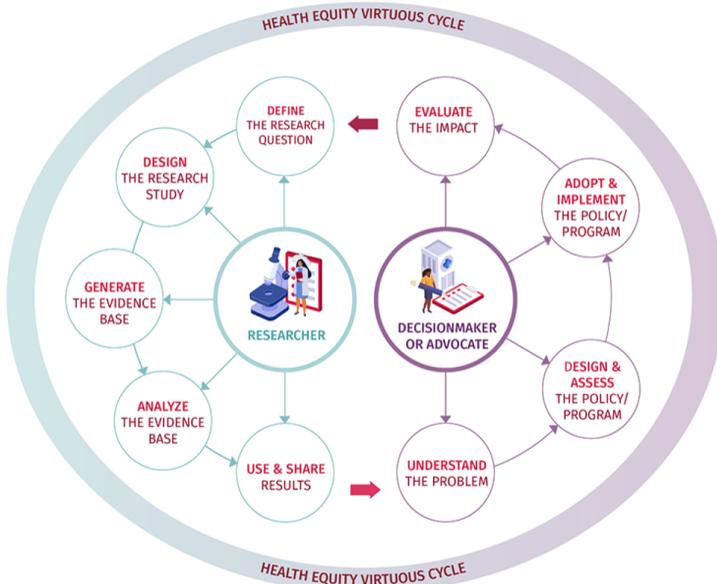
With warm regards,

Katie Coleman  
MacColl Center Director

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## New tools for advancing health equity in research, policy, and practice

The **National Partnership for Women and Families** recently released a set of excellent tools for advancing health equity in research, policy, and practice. The [Choosing Health Equity](#) tools and resources highlight the many decision points that exist for researchers, decisionmakers, and advocates. They also pose concrete questions to consider at each step and offer guidance about why these considerations are essential for advancing health equity. The tools are meant to disrupt standard processes to advance a more healthy, equitable, and just society. The website offers an interactive decision points tool, a guide for researchers, a guide for decisionmakers and advocates, and a robust resource directory.



## A practical roadmap to guide learning health systems

In a learning health system (LHS), knowledge from internal data and experience is combined with external evidence and routinely put into practice to improve care and patient health. But how does a health care organization create a successful LHS and measure its impact? A [recent paper](#) led by the MacColl Center's Claire Allen answers these important questions, providing a roadmap for understanding the core components of an LHS, how they relate to one another when operationalized in practice, and how to measure their success. Published online in the journal *Learning Health Systems*, the paper draws extensively from the authors' collective experience leading Kaiser Permanente Washington's [Learning Health System Program](#), a sister program of the MacColl Center. [READ MORE](#).



Lead author Claire Allen (right) with co-author Kayne Mettert

## Delta Center awards \$1.6M to support value-based care

The [Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net](#) is excited to announce that it has awarded 6 grants totaling over \$1.6 million to primary care and behavioral health state associations nationwide, as part of its second cohort of the [State Learning & Action Collaborative](#). The initiative seeks to advance payment, policy, and practice change that ultimately cultivates health policy and a care system that are more equitable and better meets the needs of individuals and families. The second cohort expands the initiative's reach to 8 additional states, increasing the Delta Center's impact. In addition, the Delta Center also awarded [8 alumni grants](#) to states that participated in the 2018-2020 cohort. [READ MORE](#).



## Stay in touch

We'd love to hear what you're working on! Email our team: [maccoll@kp.org](mailto:maccoll@kp.org).

Did you miss our last issue? Read our [Winter 2021 newsletter here](#).

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

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