

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2023-2024



University of Iowa Health Care's comprehensive program that addresses core characteristics and skills needed to lead effectively in an academic healthcare environment.



CHRISTINA CHARIS-DONELSON

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
INTERNAL MEDICINE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Improve patient access and expand efforts in population health by creating co-management teams of APPs and physicians to promote continuity, maintain patient satisfaction, and enhance the patient medical home through diagnostic stewardship.



ADAM CONNELL

CLINICAL OPERATIONS MANAGER
ADDICTION MEDICINE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Create and implement a formalized patient, family, and clinic leader rounding program to ensure patients understand the plan of care and improve the patient/family experience.



LAUREL L. CRUSINBERRY

LEAD COPE CHAPLAIN
PATIENT EXPERIENCE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Expand peer support training to multiple departments at UIHC to improve patient outcomes and increase employee retention.



KASIE DODD

EPIC COGITO TEAM LEAD
HEALTH CARE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PROJECT FOCUS:
Curate and market a CDA-level portfolio of Epic Cogito dashboards. This will allow CDAs or their delegates to pull data at-will, saving time for both them and the Enterprise Analytics team.



CODY FRANK

SENIOR ENGINEERING ASSOCIATE
RADIOLOGY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Development of a POCUS (Point of Care Ultrasound) program. This initiative is to ensure clinicians at UIHC utilize Radiology Engineering with all future purchasing, onboarding, networking, and evaluation of new equipment. This endeavor will allow for an enterprise-wide expansion of our POCUS program.



MEGHAN GATLIN

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST
JOINT OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Develop a formal onboarding and termination checklist for the Joint Office of Compliance.



NIGEL GAWA

ADMINISTRATIVE FELLOW
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

PROJECT FOCUS:
Optimization of courier services among UI Health Care sites.



JACLYN HALL

CLINICAL SUPERVISOR
REHABILITATION THERAPIES

PROJECT FOCUS:
Transform our acute care delivery to a shared-space, de-centralized model by better understanding space usage and redesigning acute care workflows to impact access to care, efficiency, employee engagement and patient outcomes.



KAREN M. HAMMAR

CLINICAL OPERATIONS MANAGER
CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT FOCUS:
Increase access to autism referrals for families with children who are suspected of having autism by streamlining the referral process and reducing waiting times for families seeking a diagnosis, thereby improving the chances of early intervention and better outcomes for the child.



BRENTON KENNETT

HVAC SERVICES
ENGINEERING SERVICES

PROJECT FOCUS:
Replace refrigeration and freezer temperature monitoring system to be more user friendly and resolve communication issues. This system is designed to monitor temperatures for joint commission compliance as well as alert department staff if product is not being stored at the correct temperature.



GREG KIRKMAN

EXECUTIVE SERVICE LINE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

PROJECT FOCUS:
Through Better Teamwork, Better Care's Inpatient Throughput Workgroup, evaluate opportunity to reduce excess days for a specific clinical variation outlier related to a DRG, procedure, or specific service.



ANDREA KOEHLER

NURSE MANAGER
ORGAN TRANSPLANT CENTER

PROJECT FOCUS:
Identify potential barriers to decreasing kidney transplant recipient length of stay, and work with the team to find solutions to rectify barriers for patient discharge.



ROBERT W. KWIAT

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
SAFETY AND SECURITY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Continue to enhance our teamwork to develop safety-related programs that will work in establishing a successful crime prevention program, provide safety and awareness for the staff of the hospital, and reduce criminal activity.



EMILY LAMBRECHT

HOSPITALIST/ARNP
CVICU SURGICAL/CRITICAL CARE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Create a business plan for adding APP coverage from 1900-0630 to CVICU to allow 24/7 in-house coverage including analysis of financial and safety benefits, improvement in work environment and load for medical team, and eliminate resident work hour violations.



ELYSE LAURES

NURSE SCIENTIST
NURSING

PROJECT FOCUS:
Analysis of implementation adoption and sustainability of evidence-based fall prevention practices to critically appraise successes, gaps, and next steps.



AURIEL LUNA

ADMINISTRATIVE FELLOW
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PHYSICIANS

PROJECT FOCUS:
Implementing 'On My Way' software to ease planning and increase access for patients with emergent health care needs.



LAURA MAGRANE

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
SPORTS MEDICINE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Implementation of a Department of Corrections (DOC) EConsult with UI Orthopedics will improve access to Quality Health Care for the DOC patient. Implement a triage process for Orthopedic DOC patients' complaints and reduce transportation cost for IDOC by reducing unnecessary in-person clinic visits by maximizing E-Consult/triage capabilities.



AMY McDONALD

SENIOR BUSINESS ANALYST
INTERNAL MEDICINE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Evaluate workflow and data of the UI Consult Line related to specialties with Internal Medicine to gain recognition for provider efforts at the institutional level as well as reimbursements for this care, likely through Professional Service Agreements (PSA) contracts for institutions utilizing this service at a high rate.



DARCY MCDUGAL

CLINICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR
NEUROLOGY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Create a 13-month rolling inpatient schedule for all Neurology inpatient services to improve patient access and overall satisfaction within the department of Neurology.



CLAIRE MCGRANAHAN

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
INTERNAL MEDICINE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Create a central, digital space for all communicators across UI Health Care to access that comprehensively lists the tools, resources, processes, and contact information for a person in such a position to be successful.



JAMIE R. PAUL

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR
INTERNAL MEDICINE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Creating a 360, multi-disciplinary evaluation process for new providers for team-based collaboration, continuous education, and the opportunity to connect with program leadership face-to-face.



MICHAEL POWELL

ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
HEART AND VASCULAR CENTER

PROJECT FOCUS:
Implement new Epic Cupid functionality that will allow structured echo reporting to improve communication, billing and charging processes, standardization, and reporting and analytics within Epic for the Heart and Vascular Center and across University of Iowa Health Care.



KAYLA PRIEST

SENIOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST
REHABILITATION THERAPIES

PROJECT FOCUS:
Establish an appropriate neurodevelopment assessment protocol to regularly assess our long-term pediatric patient's neurodevelopmental progression.



MEREDITH RAHN-OAKES

GOVERNANCE SPECIALIST
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

PROJECT FOCUS:
Implement most recently approved by-laws to enable our governance structure (the Clinical Systems Committee, as well as its subcommittees and working groups) to operate effectively and efficiently, while improving the flow of information to members.



JAMIE SMELSER

CLINICAL PHARMACY SPECIALIST
PHARMACY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Develop a request for succession planning and need for additional FTE within the Drug Policy/Drug Information Center.



TAMMI STEFFEN

EDUCATION OFFICE COORDINATOR
ANESTHESIA

PROJECT FOCUS:
Develop an onboarding program for new residency and fellowship coordinators across the health care enterprise.



ANNIKA STOREY

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SURGERY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Establishing a patient centered clinical care protocol for geriatric acute care and trauma surgery patients to improve patient outcomes.



MICHAEL STRONG

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
PSYCHIATRY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Optimizing the UIHC Psychiatry Consult Service through multidisciplinary, proactive, and population based health care.



CATE UNRUH

EDUCATION COORDINATOR
SURGERY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Assess equity among program coordinators in the Graduate Medical Education at Iowa to create a pathway for career advancement. This will reduce turnover, increase retention and overall job satisfaction.



DANA UPTON

NURSE MANAGER
LABOR AND DELIVERY

PROJECT FOCUS:
Implement evidence-based strategies on LDR, 3JPP and 6JPP to create a healthy work environment for the interdisciplinary teams.



KRISTINE YUMUL-NON

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
INTERNAL MEDICINE

PROJECT FOCUS:
Create a Cardio-Obstetrics clinic that will employ a comprehensive team approach to (1) evaluate and counsel women of childbearing age at risk for / currently has cardiovascular disease regarding maternal and fetal risks of pregnancy; (2) optimize medical and surgical interventions for high-risk pregnant patients and; (3) provide continuity of care from the cardiac perspective postpartum to enable the mother to best care for herself and her child.