EPOR Fall 2023 Speaker List

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| **Class date** | **Speaker** | **Subject** |
| **26-Sep** | Elaine Worcester | Testing a Hypothesis |
| **3-Oct** | Julian Solway | Resources of the Institute for Translational Medicine |
| **10-Oct** | Martha van Haitsma | Designing Surveys |
| **17-Oct** | Emily Anderson | Ethical Considerations in Planning Clinical Research |
| **24-Oct** | Eric Polley | Designing Clinical Research |
| **31-Oct** | Siri Greeley | Registries and Rare Disease Clinical Research: If You Build it, They Will Come… |
| **7-Nov** | Mihai Giurcanu | Use of Secondary Data Sources |
| **14-Nov** | George Bakris | Implementation and Recruitment for Clinical Trials |
| **28-Nov** | Julie Johnson | Using the Electronic Medical Record and the Center for Research Informatics |
| **5-Dec** | Megan Huisingh-Scheetz | Fundamentals of Outcomes Research |

*\*No class November 21 due to Thanksgiving holiday*

**Elaine Worcester, MD**

Director of the Essentials of Patient Oriented Research (EPOR) course sponsored by the Institute for Translational Medicine. The course is offered as three 10-week segments (Fall, Winter and Spring) covering topics relevant to clinical research including elements of study design, ethical aspects of translational medicine and the responsible conduct of research, and basics of statistics for human research. Lectures are given by many members of the Biological Science Division; many of them noted translational researchers.

Her research group investigates mechanisms of kidney stone formation, including studies of human physiology, surgical mapping and biopsy of stone patients, and detailed histology of renal papillary tissue from stone formers of differing phenotypes to find the pathways that lead to stone growth in the kidneys, and potential targets for prevention and treatment. These studies involve collaboration between investigators from both clinical and basic science backgrounds, which will be the paradigm for most clinical researchers in future.

**Julian Solway, MD**

Is the Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, and is Dean for Translational Medicine and founding Director of the Institute for Translational Medicine, home of the University of Chicago’s NIH/NCATS CTSA award. His research program addresses airway smooth muscle (ASM) function and dysfunction in asthma at the molecular, cellular, and functional levels in both animal models and humans. Additional studies address therapeutics in mechanistic and therapeutic clinical studies and preclinical development of novel asthma treatments. Dr. Solway led a consortium of investigators from 6 academic institutions plus NCATS that discovered a new class of small molecules that inhibit experimental allergen-induced airway constrictor hyperresponsiveness and airway remodeling, called “remodilins”; these are presently in preclinical development as a potential treatment for asthma. Recently, he has focused on the inhibition of breast cancer metastasis and on the inhibition of pulmonary fibrosis using the remodilins discovered in asthma studies. He has directed the University of Chicago's NHLBI- sponsored T32 Research Training Program in Respiratory Biology for 25 years, led or co-led two NHLBI Multidisciplinary K12 Training Programs, and currently co-leads an NIH Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) award.

**Martha van Haitsma**

Martha has co-directed or directed the University of Chicago Survey Lab since its inception, and is currently the President of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO).   Martha earned her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago and her MA from the University of Texas at Austin.  She has been teaching graduate-level survey and interview research methods courses at the University of Chicago since 1999.

**Emily Anderson, PhD, MPH**

Emily E. Anderson is an associate professor. She teaches research ethics and responsible conduct of research to graduate and medical students as well as courses in empirical bioethics and global bioethics. Her areas of interest and expertise include researcher and physician professionalism and misconduct; ethical issues in research with vulnerable populations; informed consent; institutional review board (IRB) policy; and the application of qualitative research techniques to the study of research ethics. Dr. Anderson has published articles in the American Journal of Bioethics, Ethics and Behavior, Journal of Law Medicine and Ethics, Academic Medicine, Accountability in Research, and the Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics (JERHRE). She serves as associate editor for Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics. She also has almost 20 years of experience serving on six different IRBs and frequently presents at conferences including the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) and Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R). Dr. Anderson has also been a co-investigator on several federally-funded research and educational projects.

Dr. Anderson is the Principal Investigator/Project Director of the Loyola University Chicago-Ukrainian Catholic University (LUC-UCU) Doctoral and Post- Doctoral Bioethics Fellowship Program. This program provides advanced training in research ethics in English to scholars and professionals from Ukraine. The aim of this program is to train a critical mass of bioethics experts who will hold positions of scholarship and leadership in health research institutions in Ukraine. These individuals will be instrumental in providing direction on matters of research ethics to their educational institutions, government agencies, and international organizations. This program is a partnership between the Neiswanger Institute and UCU’s School of Bioethics.

**Eric Polley, PhD**

Eric Polley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at The University of Chicago where he is the faculty director for the Data Science in Public Health concentration in the Master of Public Health program. Dr. Polley was previously an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences at Mayo Clinic. Dr. Polley received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010. With Mark van der Laan, they developed the Super Learner ensemble prediction methodology. Prior to joining Mayo, Dr. Polley was a mathematical statistician in the Biometric Research Branch at the U.S. National Cancer Institute. His research area involves the development and evaluation of prediction methods, Innovative methods for diagnostic and prognostic prediction, and precision medicine clinical trial design.

**Siri Atma Greeley, MD, PhD**

Siri Atma W. Greeley is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine in the Section of Adult and Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism at University of Chicago, where he is also Associate Director for Pediatric Diabetes for the Kovler Diabetes Center. He has been studying diabetes since the age of 14 years, when his father was diagnosed with autoimmune type 1 diabetes. Dr. Greeley completed his undergraduate education at Columbia University in New York before earning his MD – as well as a PhD in the immunology of type 1 diabetes – from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He then moved to Chicago, where he completed his Pediatrics Residency and Pediatric Endocrinology Fellowship at the University of Chicago and Comer Children’s Hospital, where he currently has an active clinical practice in which he sees patients with all forms of diabetes or other endocrine problems.

Dr. Greeley is an internationally recognized expert on monogenic forms of diabetes, with a particular focus on congenital forms of diabetes diagnosed at a very young age. Along with Drs. Louis Philipson, MD, PhD, Graeme Bell, PhD and Rochelle Naylor, MD, Dr. Greeley conceived of and developed the web-based US Monogenic Diabetes Registry (http://monogenicdiabetes.uchicago.edu) that now includes over 4000 individuals with known or suspected monogenic forms of diabetes. Thanks to the active ongoing interest of the Registry participants, Dr. Greeley’s patient-oriented and outcomes based clinical studies have led to over 50 original research publications that include several key contributions to the overall understanding of monogenic forms of diabetes.

**Mihai Giurcanu, PhD**

Dr. Gircanu is a biostatistician whose research interests focus on computationally intensive methods and statistical models for moderate and high dimensional data with independent and dependent outcomes. He developed statistical methods and models with direct applications in data analysis covering high-dimensional inference for regression models, bootstrap hypothesis testing and oracle inference for correctly specified and misspecified models, and nonparametric methods in survival analysis. He has a rich collaboration and statistical consulting experience for grant proposals including planning, power, and sample size calculation for clinical trials and experimental designs, description of statistical methods and models for specific aims and data analysis. He has collaborated on multiple data analysis projects covering regression analysis, multivariate analysis, survival analysis, survey analysis, and time series analysis. As a result of fruitful collaboration with researchers from other fields, he has published research articles in multiple journals.

**George Bakris, MD**

Dr. Bakris specializes in the diagnosis and reduction of complicated and refractory high blood pressure patients. He is also a nephrologist has contributed to development of recent therapies to slow diabetic kidney disease. As director of the Am. Heart Assoc. Comprehensive Hypertension Center, he oversees the interpretation of Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) for the institution, a technique that provides information about blood pressure over the 24-hour period, including during sleep.

Dr. Bakris has been extensively involved as either a principal investigator or on the steering committees of national and international trials involving diabetic kidney disease progression and resistant hypertension. He was the principal investigator of the FIDELIO trial that was completed, recently and on the steering committee of the FIGARO trial recently reported and FIDELITY analysis. He is also on the steering committee of the FLOW trial evaluating a novel diabetes drug on diabetic kidney disease progression. Additionally, he is the principal investigator of a trial in resistant hypertension with a novel compound. He has served on many guideline committees over the past 15 years and is currently a member of the American Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Guidelines and a member of the American Heart Association panel updating resistant hypertension guidelines. Dr. Bakris received the Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award to acknowledge his lifetime of outstanding achievements in the field of hypertension as well as the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois Lifetime Service Award.

**Julie Johnson, PhD, MPH, RN**

Julie has more than 15 years of clinical and healthcare experience as a nurse, analyst, teaching assistant, research assistant, and clinical program coordinator. As part of the CRDW team, she works directly with stakeholders to translate their research questions into optimized requests for the technical team. In addition, she is a guest speaker for the Office of Clinical Research’s monthly research series and an instructor for the Fundamentals of Clinical Research course and SPORT program. Julie is a 1999 graduate of Georgetown University’s School of Nursing and Health Studies, a 2003 graduate of The University of Illinois at Chicago’s (UIC) School of Public Health, and received her PhD in 2018 from UIC’s College of Nursing.

**Megan Huisingh-Scheetz, MD, MPH**

Megan Huisingh-Scheetz is an Assistant Professor in the Section of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the University of Chicago. As a clinician investigator and NIA K23 recipient, her research has focused on understanding how objectively measured activity and sedentary behavior patterns, resting metabolic rate, and body composition relate to frailty progression and frailty-related outcomes. Through her work, she analyzes accelerometry data to assess and trend activity patterns as markers of frailty. In partnership with NORC and Orbita, Inc, Dr. Huisingh-Scheetz also developed and is studying the impact of EngAGE, a technology-based tool utilizing a voice assistant to deliver exercise programming to older adults in their home to reduce frailty. The program leverages caregivers to provide social motivation to the older adult to simultaneously combat loneliness. She also helped establish and now co-directs the Successful Aging and Frailty Evaluation™ (SAFE) clinic in which she assesses and manages frail older adults in consultation.