

OVERVIEW

College of Medicine

Institute for Child Health Policy



ELIZABETH SHENKMAN, PHD
Director

The Institute for Child Health Policy (ICHP) at the University of Florida **unites researchers and healthcare providers around common goals for improving the health of mothers, children and adolescents.**

ICHP-affiliated faculty members have spent decades conducting pragmatic clinical trials that reduce health risks and transform health care delivery. Our implementation science studies bridge the gap between research and practice, bringing evidence-based approaches to the clinical and community settings where families receive care. This work advances maternal, child, and adolescent health, while training tomorrow's research leaders.

COMPOUND PROBLEMS

Significant numbers of children and adolescents have mental health disorders, chronic physical health conditions or developmental disabilities. A wide range of health risks, including tobacco and substance use, poor nutrition, and environmental exposures, contribute to poor health in childhood. These challenges are compounded by limited access to high-quality health care.

INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP



STEPHANIE STARAS, MSPH, PHD
Associate Director

Professor & Associate Chair, Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics



MEI LIU, PHD
Associate Director

Associate Professor, Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics



KYLIE HARRALL, PHD
Assistant Director

Research Assistant Professor, Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics

ADVANCING HEALTH RESEARCH

ICHP is nationally recognized for advancing health research on vital matters such as the quality of physical and mental health care, diabetes surveillance, rural healthcare for pregnant women, and cancer prevention.

More than 30 faculty and affiliate members work in transdisciplinary teams to explore the biological, behavioral, and social influences on maternal, child and adolescent health. Our researchers use integrated data from clinical, environmental, and community sources to better understand the complex factors that shape health trajectories from birth through adolescence. We also design, test, and implement tailored interventions that improve individual and population-level health outcomes for children and families.

\$185 M

Grant Funding
Since 2015

15:1

Average Output vs.
Operating Costs

On average, \$1 million of ICHP's budget provides \$15 million in additional external funding



Health Research
Innovation



Real World Data



Translation to Practice

Quality of Care for Mothers, Children & Adolescents

Our impactful research studies and evaluations have resulted in the development of oral health quality of care measures that are in use nationally. Our work has also led to novel approaches in assessing children’s mental health care.

ICHP faculty members manage major evaluation initiatives focused on the quality and outcomes of care in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program in Florida and Texas. These evaluation efforts have translated into health care delivery improvements such as STAR Kids, a managed care program designed for children with special health care needs.



DEEPA RANKA, PHD

ICHP Affiliate Faculty

Assistant Scientist, Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics



Diabetes in Youth

Diabetes in youth is rising rapidly. ICHP developed and implemented an electronic health record (EHR)-based diabetes surveillance system in Florida, New York and other states. The purpose of this system is to assess Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes prevalence, risk factors, complications and medication use to provide actionable insights to guide public health interventions.

Rural Healthcare for Pregnant Women

Pregnant women in rural settings often struggle to obtain adequate care. As part of the NIH-funded Florida Community-Engaged Research Alliance, ICHP faculty work with a Mobile Outreach Unit to test and implement community health worker-led interventions that increase access to prenatal and postpartum care and to address food insecurity across a five-county rural area.



Cancer Prevention

New approaches and technologies are helping young people avoid cancer. ICHP faculty are leading studies on increasing the uptake of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among low-income, rural boys and girls and on reducing the use of tobacco products among adolescents.

Two studies funded by the National Cancer Institute, called Text and Talk and ReMARK, are working with 60 pediatric primary care practices to implement education, communication, and access strategies with physicians, parents, and children to improve HPV vaccine coverage. ICHP faculty are also conducting a pragmatic clinical trial to test the comparative effectiveness of mobile health interventions that make smoking cessation resources more accessible to adolescents and young adults.

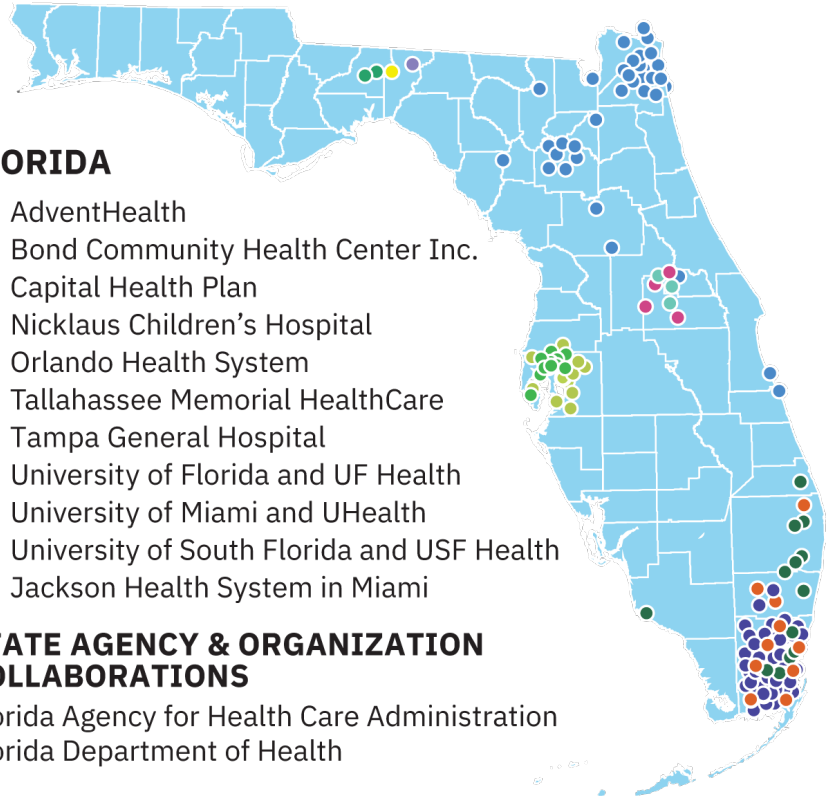


USING REAL WORLD DATA

ICHP, in partnership with the UF Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics (HOBI) and the Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies, coordinates multiple clinical research venues. The Institute maintains one of the largest real-world medical data repositories for women and children. The OneFlorida+ Clinical Research Network and its Data Trust, funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI®), were developed to conduct pragmatic clinical trials and to ensure that trustworthy, high-quality data from health systems, public programs and other sources can be used to generate real-world solutions for pressing health problems.



State	Electronic Health Records Clinical Data
Florida	19 Million
Minnesota	2.9 Million
Georgia	2.1 Million
California	1.9 Million
Alabama	1 Million
Arkansas	1 Million
	27.9 Million



Data Trust

The Data Trust is a key data asset for advancing maternal and child health research. It supports the development of large language models (LLMs) and predictive analytics that help identify a wide range of physical and mental health risks among women, children, and adolescents, including depression and substance use.



Artificial Intelligence

ICHP-affiliated researchers have been instrumental in developing groundbreaking AI tools such as GatorTron, a clinical language model, and in advancing ongoing innovations using HiPerGator, which is one of the largest supercomputers at any university.

YONGHUI WU, PHD

ICHP Affiliate Faculty

Associate Professor, Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics

Chief Data Scientist & Director of Natural Language Processing, UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute

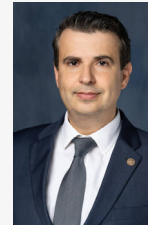


TRANSLATION TO PRACTICE

ICHP faculty members invest considerable time and effort to translate research findings into clinical and community settings. ICHP collaborated with UF Health on the Health System Implementation Initiative to apply evidence-based research findings. ICHP also partnered with the UF Department of Pediatrics to implement evidence-based practices for prescribing antibiotics for children.

Leadership

ICHP partners with the Florida Health Policy Leadership Academy, which provides training for community leaders and locally elected officials to launch interventions such as community-based tobacco cessation initiatives.



RAMZI SALLOUM, PHD
ICHP Affiliate Faculty

*Professor, Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics
Director, Learning Health System Program,
UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute*

\$185 M
Grant Funding
Since 2015

RESEARCH FUNDING

ICHP faculty have obtained funding from a wide range of granting agencies including the NIH, the National Cancer Institute, PCORI, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

From 2015 through 2024, ICHP-affiliated faculty obtained **\$185 million in grant funding.**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

ICHP continues to lead in advancing research and the use of real-world data. Aligned with UF's strategic AI initiative, we are conducting innovative research using medical notes to more robustly identify health risks and design targeted interventions.

We continue to expand our capabilities to conduct pragmatic clinical trials in a range of rural and urban settings. We also are expanding our data linkages to incorporate additional clinical and genetic information, combined with exposome data, to enhance the precision of cohort discovery for clinical trials and to better understand health outcomes across the lifespan.

The Institute for Child Health Policy focuses on mothers, children, adolescents, and their healthcare through collaborative, trans-disciplinary research. ICHP provides independent, verifiable perspectives and voices of expertise that are useful to families, clinicians, payers, and other entities that need to make healthcare decisions based on evidence. The Institute provides a research community with broad resources and deep knowledge to improve maternal, child and adolescent health.

