



Dear Dr. Robert Blackburn Award Committee,

My name is Jennifer Leininger and I am writing to express my support for Dr. Whitney Garney to receive the Dr. Robert Blackburn Award for work in advocacy, systems, or policy work. Through my role as the Associate Director of Community Programs and Initiatives at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Garney as a stakeholder of her policy and systems work for over 5 years.

We first began working with Dr. Garney in 2017 through the Innovative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs (iTP3) project and continue this collaboration through the Comprehensive Healthcare for Adolescents Initiative (CHAI) project. Dr. Garney co-led both of these programs with a goal of developing innovative programs focused on teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent health from an ecological perspective. Both projects were built on recognition of the need for innovative approaches to improving adolescent health, including healthcare access.

Through our collaborative work, I participated in design sessions co-led by Dr. Garney that included subject matter experts in adolescent health, stakeholder organizations, and incorporated adolescent feedback. Dr. Garney was able to guide this process of including multiple levels of feedback to develop interventions that are innovative, beneficial, and acceptable for both patients and providers. Both iTP3 and CHAI resulted in programs that have been implemented within our clinic division in the hopes of improving adolescent healthcare for disparate, underserved, and high-risk patients. Currently, we are pilot testing Total Teen and Confident Teen interventions and providing data and process feedback to improve the programs for future rigorous testing. At its core, Total Teen improve the process of assessing adolescent patient needs and ensuring patients receive timely access to behavioral health and sexual and reproductive health services while

Confident Teen ensures at a policy level that adolescents have the opportunity for confidential one-on-one time with a healthcare provider.

Through my collaboration with Dr. Garney as a stakeholder of her systems and policy work, I can attest to her commitment to health interventions that go beyond individual education and have the potential for systemic impact. If you have any questions, please contact me at jleininger@luriechildrens.org or 312.227.7721.



Jennifer Leininger, M.Ed. (she/her)
Associate Director, Community Programs & Initiatives
The Potocsnak Family Division of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
T 312.227.7721 | JLeininger@luriechildrens.org

Robert Garofalo MD, MPH
Division Head
Adolescent Medicine

Faculty

Diane Chen, PhD
Claire Coyne, PhD
Cherie Priya Dhar, MD
Amy K. Johnson, PhD, MSW
Lisa Kuhns, PhD, MPH
Gregg Montalto, MD
Maria Rahmander, MD
Claudio Rivera, PhD
Anna Ros, PhD
Lisa Simons, MD
Raina Voss, MD, MPH
Faith Williams, PhD

Clinical Staff

Sarah Cohen, LCSW
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Kristin Sabatino, LCSW
Drake Schoeppl, LCSW

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Jessica Feuerstein, DO
Terrance Weeden, DO
Briahna Yuodsnukis, PhD