Bassett Healthcare Network
Research Institute

2025 Year in Review

Research that makes a difference in rural communities.

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Mission

The Bassett Research Institute conducts research to understand and improve the health and well-being of individuals and rural populations. We develop strategies to improve health care delivery, prevent illness, and manage chronic disease in support of the Bassett Healthcare Network's mission.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

2025 was a year of significant challenges and growth for the Bassett Research Institute (BRI). External threats to funding and programs emerged at the federal level, requiring significant time and effort from our Investigators and Office of Grants Management to address. While challenges and uncertainty still exist as we enter 2026, I am happy to report that as we close out 2025, we find ourselves in a position of growth.

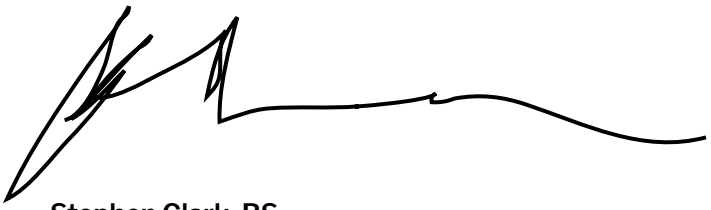
Significant new grant programs in new areas for the BRI have been secured including: In the Center for Rural Community Health, Kristin Pullyblank, PhD secured a new grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research entitled "Rural Innovative Multi-sectoral Preventive Approaches Community Trial for Population Health Improvement (Rural IMPACT)" This community-based study will explore how the way in which communities coordinate themselves to make decisions about the provision and production of diabetes prevention services can impact the delivery of such services and subsequently population health outcomes. This is a 2-year phase I study that has potential to lead to a 5-year second phase.

In the Center for Clinical Research, Dr. Freilich secured a major PCORI grant entitled "A Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing Renal Effects of Vancomycin Combined With Either Piperacillin/tazobactam or Meropenem - The VPT Safety Trial (VPS)". This 3-year clinical trial begins on January 1, 2026 and will be conducted at up to 34 sites nationally and is funded for approximately $12.8 Million.

These are just two of the highlighted programs, as you will see in the detailed Center reports that follow. BRI staff continue to submit and carry out research and grant related activities with multiple areas of focus as well as providing the backbone of support for all Research at Bassett Medical Center, including significant support from our Biostatistics team, Clinical Research Nurses, IRB and Office of Grants Management.

A strong focus on collaboration continued in 2025 with research and programs being conducted in collaboration with The University of Rochester, Cornell University, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, San Francisco, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center as well numerous local organizations and agencies.

Finally as 2025 comes to a close, the multi-year search for a new Director has concluded! Tyler Malone, PhD has accepted the position of Director for the Bassett Research Institute and will begin on February 2nd 2026. Dr. Malone comes to us from the University of North Carolina with a PhD in Health Policy Management with an Economics Minor. Tyler will be tasked with leading the BRI as well as initiating new areas of Research focused on Rural Healthcare. Tyler will be inheriting a department that is strong and positioned to grow thanks to ongoing efforts of all staff at the BRI.



Stephen Clark, BS
Interim Director, Bassett Research Institute & Director Research and Grant Management

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

Who We Are

Wendy Brunner, PhD
Chair

Heidi Johnson, CIP
Program Manager

Beth Utter, BS
Coordinator Dept. Operations

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) is comprised of twelve voting members and eleven alternate members of varying backgrounds, in addition to the Chair of the Board. The Board is charged with providing a complete review of research activities commonly conducted by investigators within the network. The Board meets at least once per month on the first Tuesday of every month. It is responsible for conducting an initial review process, a continuing review process and for maintaining a record of all IRB activities, in accordance with the HHS regulation for the Protection of Human Subjects as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations (45 CFR 46 and 21 CFR 50, 56). One member resigned and three new members came on the committee during the course of the year.

At the end of 2025 there were 73 active protocols approved for research activities within the network. During 2025, 14 new protocols were approved; seven were clinical trials and seven were based on non-experimental study designs to analyze existing datasets or use qualitative or quantitative methods for collection and analysis of primary data. During 2025, 28 projects qualified for exemption. Thirty-five protocols were completed and terminated in the course of 2025.

The IRB Office has standing agreements and protocols to engage the service of external IRBs when Bassett investigators are collaborators in multi-site industry-sponsored or NIH-funded clinical trials; current partnerships include the National Cancer Institute's Central Institutional Review Board (CIRB), Advarra, WCG IRB, University of Rochester Research Subjects Review Board, and Brown University.

Other activities of the Board during the past year included:

Monitoring and reviewing the local occurrence of adverse events (1 during the 12 month period) and protocol deviations (0 during the 12 month period)

Reviewing numerous protocol amendments and modifications proposed to ongoing research studies (198 during the 12 month period)

Continuing education sessions for IRB members held during the course of the year included: What is Key Information? Consideration of the Reasons People Do or Do Not Take Part in Research; IRB Case Study in Research Review (Mobile Medical App for PTSD-Related Nightmares); and IRB Case Study in Research Review (Hypertension Treatment Study)

Beginning a series of training sessions for Bassett research staff to be continued in 2026

285 **Administrative reviews were performed in 2025**

THE OFFICE OF

Director
Stephen Clark, BS

Business Manager
Melinda Hasbrouck, MBA

The **Bassett Healthcare Network Office of Grants Management (OGM)** supports the submission of all Research Institute and NYCAMH grant applications and assists as requested with non-research applications for the network. The OGM provides support and guidance to Research Principal Investigators for all phases of post-award management, including management of contracts and sub-awards, quarterly and annual reporting and grant close out. The OGM monitors and maintains all state and federal grant submission and tracking platforms and assures that the organization remains in compliance with all state and federal regulations as they pertain to grant supported programs.

In 2025, OGM staff continues to work closely with the Director of Governmental Affairs, Finance, and the Friends of Bassett to address opportunities for the larger organization with regards to pre and post award grants management. The continued goal of this department is to support grant application development to increase overall external funding for the organization and to implement practices to significantly improve post-award management performance/compliance. Benefits to Research include a reduction in overall risk to the organization with regards to grants stewardship/compliance as well as significant support for collaborations and new opportunities within the organization.

The 29 grant applications submitted in 2025

Principal Investigator/Project Director	Granting Agency	Application Title	Submission Date
Dan Freilich with JHU as sub	PCORI	The Vancomycin and Piperacillin /Tazobactam Patient Safety (VPS) RCT	1/14/2025
Dan Freilich (sub of University at Buffalo)	PCORI	Facilitated Telemedicine for Hepatitis C Treatment for People with Opioid Use Disorder in Diverse, Underserved Healthcare Settings: A Pragmatic, Stepped Wedge Comparative Effectiveness Study (LOI)	1/14/2025
Lisa Betrus/Carolyn Lewis/Sam Campbell	NYS DOH	Bassett's Healthcare Education and Life Skills Program	1/15/2025
Lynae Wyckoff/Wendy Brunner	NYS DOH Bureau of Health Equity and Community Engagement	Small Wellness Sustainability	1/17/2025
Samuel Badalian/Carolyn Lewis	Melinda Gates Foundation	Action for Women's Health	1/20/2025
Timothy Korytko/Kristin Pullyblank (sub of Fred Hutch Cancer Center)	NIH	A Multisite Randomized Controlled Trial of Ca-HELP-A to Improve Pain Self-Management among Older Adults with Cancer in Rural Settings	1/21/2025
Carolyn Lewis/ Helios	HRSA	Partner with Helios in a network that will develop and implement an Aging in Place system in Otsego, Delaware and Schoharie Counties of Central New York State	1/24/2025
Carolyn Lewis/Chris Kjolhede/Jane Hamilton	HRSA	Bassett-Unatego School Based Health Center Outreach Consortium	1/24/2025
Kristin Pullyblank	The Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation	Designing Community-Driven Systems for Rural Population Health Improvement (LOI)	2/14/2025
Conor Hammersley	OMH	N/A LOI only submitted for Farmers Supporting Farmers RFP	2/20/2025
Carolyn Lewis/Jane Hamilton	USDA	Bassett School-Based Health Center (SBHC) Telehealth Network	3/3/2025
Kevin Durgee/Jane Hamilton	RUS	Bassett School-Based Health Center Network Project	3/5/2025
Erika Scott	Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF)	Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Cutting Down Barriers to Healthcare Access for Maine's Logging Industry Workers	3/17/2025
Lisa Betrus/Carolyn Lewis	The Health Forward Foundation	Increasing Access to Technology to Support CNA Education	3/31/2025
Carolyn Lewis/Joan MacDonald	AARP	Strengthening Bassett's Nursing Workforce with a Healthy Work Environment	4/3/2025
Lisa Betrus/Carolyn Lewis	USDA	Increasing Patient Health & Safety through Rural Community Facility Upgrades.	4/4/2025
Lisa Betrus,/Carolyn Lewis	USDA	Investing in Patient Equipment to Strengthen Rural Healthcare	4/4/2025
Lisa Betrus/Carolyn Lewis/Sam Campbell/Brenda Laughlin	NYS DOH	Increasing Training Capacity in Statewide Healthcare Facilities	4/22/2025
Kristin Pullyblank (sub of Columbia)	PCORI	Revised STEADI: Virtual Exercise Programs and Interprofessional Teams to Decrease Burden (LOI)	5/19/2025
Carolyn Lewis	NYS DOH	Access to Diagnostic Equipment	6/30/2025
Kristin Pullyblank	RWJF	Developing a New Paradigm for Rural Community-Driven Health Improvement (LOI)	9/5/2025
Julie Sorensen	Lloyd's Register Foundation	Aquatic Food Supply Systems Safety Innovation Network: An Online Resource for International Dissemination of Evidence-Based Solutions	9/16/2025
Kristin Pullyblank (sub of Columbia)	PCORI	Mind-body Exercise for People with Dementia and Their Care Partners (LOI)	9/23/2025
Pam Milkovich	NIH	Understanding the burden and context of cardiovascular disease among farmers: A pre-implementation training study	9/26/2025
Julie Sorensen	Chobani	Chobani & NYCAMH Fair Trade Proposal	10/10/2025
Kristin Pullyblank (sub of Columbia)	NIH	Online Mind and Body Movement-based Sitting Interventions for People with Dementia and their Care Partners	10/20/2025
Conor Hammersley	USDA	Consolidation, Identity, and Mental Health: Understanding the Social Costs of Agricultural Restructuring in Rural America	10/27/2025
Wendy Brunner (sub of URMC)	University of Rochester, UNYTE	Enhancing uptake of smoking cessation treatment among rural communities via the patient portal (LOI)	11/17/2025
Erika Scott	NY Health Foundation	Improving Health Outcomes for Central New York's Dairy Workforce	11/19/2025

Who We Are

Wendy Brunner, PhD
Director

Kristin Pullyblank, PhD, RN
Research Investigator

Lynae Wyckoff, MS
Senior Health Educator

Mindy Robinson, BA
Research Coordinator

Amanda Chapman, BS
Research Assistant

Pamela Burch, BS
Research Assistant

Jenny Flynn, MS
Research Assistant

Caitlin Liberati, MA
Research Assistant

Carleen Henderson
Health Educator

David Strogatz, PhD
Director Emeritus

A common thread among our Center activities is partnership, which we have found to be invaluable to meeting the needs of our rural communities. A special thank you to the NYS Department of Health, local health departments, NYS Office for the Aging, local Offices for the Aging, Rural Health Networks, local health and human service agencies, and coworkers across the Bassett Health Network.

Additional community contributions included: service to Schoharie and Otsego Counties' Health and Human Service Councils; co-organization of Mental Health First Aid Trainings; and supporting SUNY Cobleskill Childcare Center Farm to School initiative. In October, Living Well received a notice of award for the 5-year Rural Health Network Development Program. New initiatives include: increasing health literacy among youth and decreasing risk behaviors by engaging youth in the development and implementation of social norms-based messaging campaigns; smoking cessation services (Freedom From Smoking); and fall prevention services (Bingocize).

Michelle Leveski providing nutrition education at Bassett Medical Center farm market.

Student interns Fiona Held & Eliana Minenna distributing worksite CSA shares.

2025 PROJECTS

Living Well
Bassett Healthcare Network

Utilizing our NYS Rural Health Network funding, we provided community-based evidenced-based programming and interventions. Key priorities implemented by BRI team include improving access to farm fresh produce; providing nutrition education; and empowering adults to prevent and manage chronic conditions.

Program funding also supported: nutrition education provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie & Otsego Counties, and services for older adults provided by The Gathering Place 50+ Community Center in Cobleskill and Oneonta NY and Connections at Clark Sports Center.

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

We provided health & wellness education in books & CDs for people living with ongoing health issues.

More than **200** disease toolkits distributed through provided referrals, individual requests, and community events

Eat Healthy, Be Active

We provided this 6-week program of 1-hour community workshops for adults based on Dietary Guidelines & Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans.

64 Participants attending regularly in **4** different cohorts

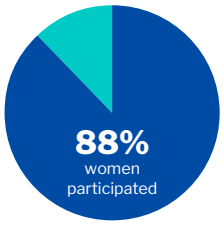
Farmers Market at Bassett Medical Center Clinic

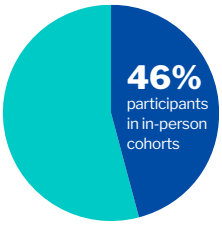
We partnered with Middlefield Orchard to provide a Farm Market once a month from June to October to employees, patients, and community.

13-30 types of produce available at each market, with **350+** paying customers

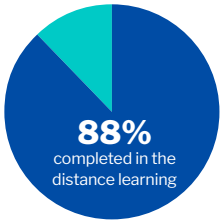
National Diabetes Prevention Program

We provided this yearlong program to support the delay or prevention of type 2 diabetes in hour-long meetings.





NDPP groups meet weekly for 4 months, then monthly. Cohorts either meet in-person or meet virtually (called distance learning).



81 total participants in **7** cohorts

Cohorts start and end at different times of the year.

2025 PROJECTS

School-Based Health Centers and the Health of Rural Children and Youth

In collaboration with Cornell University and funded with a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (PIs: Wendy Brunner PhD, Sharon Tennyson PhD), this 5-year research project is exploring the impact of school-based health centers (SBHCs) on rural youth. SBHCs are clinics located in schools that provide care to students at no out-of-pocket cost to families. Bassett Healthcare Network runs 22 SBHCs in 18 school districts in Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie and Chenango counties.

During 2025, the research team conducted 3 interviews and 2 focus groups with key stakeholders including Bassett staff, SBHC staff, school faculty, government officials and community agencies from across the region. The information learned in the interviews and focus groups was used to create a school and community collaboration survey. The survey was administered to all school districts, with or without a SBHC, in Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie and Chenango counties, a total of 38 districts. In fall 2025, the research team implemented the Youth Risk Behavior Survey among high school students in school districts in Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie counties (Chenango county conducts its own youth survey) to better understand social determinants of health-related needs of high school students in the study region.

The research team published articles on SBHCs and school attendance, and SBHCs and primary care utilization and presented research findings at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in November 2025.

Jane Hamilton, Practice Manager, meets with U.S. Representative Josh Riley at Cooperstown SBHC

Caregivers Program

In collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco, The Family Caregiver Program is a pragmatic trial funded by the National Institutes of Health, IMPACT Collaborative. The purpose of this randomized pilot study is to determine the feasibility of implementing a workshop for caregivers into usual primary care settings. Study recruitment was completed in October 2025.
Thirty-three family caregivers from Bassett signed up for the 6-week workshops.
caregiverprogram.ucsf.edu

> **In 2024, 656,000 family caregivers in New York provided 893 million hours of unpaid care valued at $22.6 billion.**
>
> Alzheimer's Association

Diabetes on Track

A three-year initiative (2022-2025) in collaboration with University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health (Dr. David Dzewaltowski, PI), Diabetes on Track explores a novel, paradigm-challenging process-oriented approach to rural whole-of-community diabetes care, prevention and education that embraces the complexity of community systems. Project implementation continued through June 2025. The team has been analyzing data, disseminating results at national conferences, and developing manuscripts.

Photos courtesy Diabetes on Track and The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)

Rural Innovative Multi-sectoral Preventive Approaches Community Trial for Population Health Improvement (Rural IMPACT)

This community-based study, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, will explore how the way in which communities coordinate themselves to make decisions about the provision and production of diabetes prevention services can impact the delivery of such services and subsequently population health outcomes. The work is theoretically grounded in political economy, behavioral science and design thinking and builds upon the Diabetes on Track project. The study team includes faculty members from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health, Clarkson University, Herkimer county HealthNet, Madison County Rural Health Council, Rural Health Network of South Central New York, and Chenango Health Network.

Rural Firefighter Research (in development)

CRCH staff have been building a research database using regional firefighter screening records in preparation for future research related to the health of rural firefighters. This work has involved digitizing records and entering them into a de-identified database for analysis. The records go back to the 1990s allowing for an analysis of trends over time in this population.

Neural Network to Prevent Sudden Cardiac Death among Firefighters in New York

CRCH continued a collaboration with the University of Rochester School of Nursing on a UNYTE-funded project designed to identify changes in heart rhythms associated with increased risk for sudden cardiac arrest among firefighters (PI: Dillon J Dzikowicz PhD, RN, PCCN). The research team enrolled firefighters across the state, which included local recruitment efforts with volunteer firefighters from the Bassett region. The objectives of the study were to (1) evaluate the effectiveness of an existing neural network at classifying arrhythmias using data collected from a wearable device and (2) re-design the neural network for sudden cardiac arrest risk prediction.

2025 PROJECTS

URMC Wilmot Cancer Center Collaboration

CRCH has now been collaborating with The University of Rochester's Wilmot Cancer Center for three full years. Research Coordinator, Mindy Robinson, continues to bring Wilmot's resources to Bassett Communities in Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties.

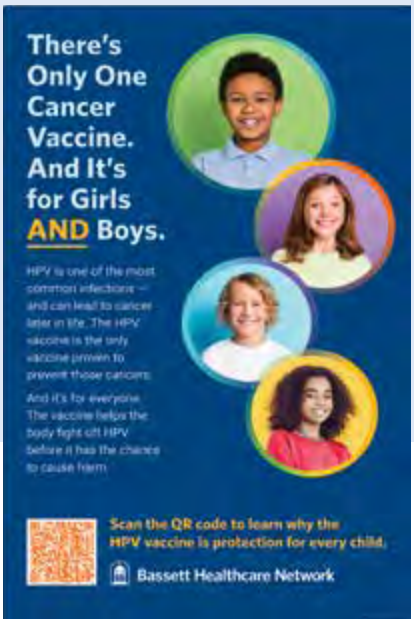
Wilmot's Quit Center, smoking cessation program, continues to grow at Bassett. The advertising screensaver continues in rotation on staff computer screens and in patient exam rooms. In addition to attending Provider & Nursing Staff Meetings (for a sort of "Refresh & Remind), Mindy also attended meetings of the Residency Program and Human Resources Staff, to spread the information further. In the community, Mindy continued to attend monthly meetings for various Community Groups, bringing information about the Quit Center to be disbursed in other organizations. There will be some changes to come in 2026, but in 2025, Mindy connected and referred more than 110 Bassett patients and staff to this 6-month, text message-based program which also includes 10 weeks of nicotine replacement therapy and daily support and encouragement.

While Mindy scaled her tabling efforts back a bit in 2025, she still participated in many of the best events of the year including the OHS SADD Walk/Run & Health Fair, the Chenango County Pride Fest, Bassett's "Cancer Survivors Day" Event, Bassett's "Shine A Light on Lung Cancer" Events, and the "Great American Smoke Out" Event at SUNY Oneonta, just to name a few.

When asked about her favorite part and best accomplishment in 2025, Mindy will quickly reply, "Finally taking the Pigs Lungs into public schools!" She visited a total of six schools, presenting for grades 4-12. Using a PowerPoint presentation designed to spark conversation, strategically placed trivia questions, and then, of course, the Pigs Lungs Demonstration, Mindy reached roughly 800 students. Feedback from school staff AND parents after her visits, is that the students are hearing the message about the dangers of tobacco use. Additionally, Mindy is learning from the students about what they already know and what they need/want to know more about and so her presentation is continually expanding and evolving.

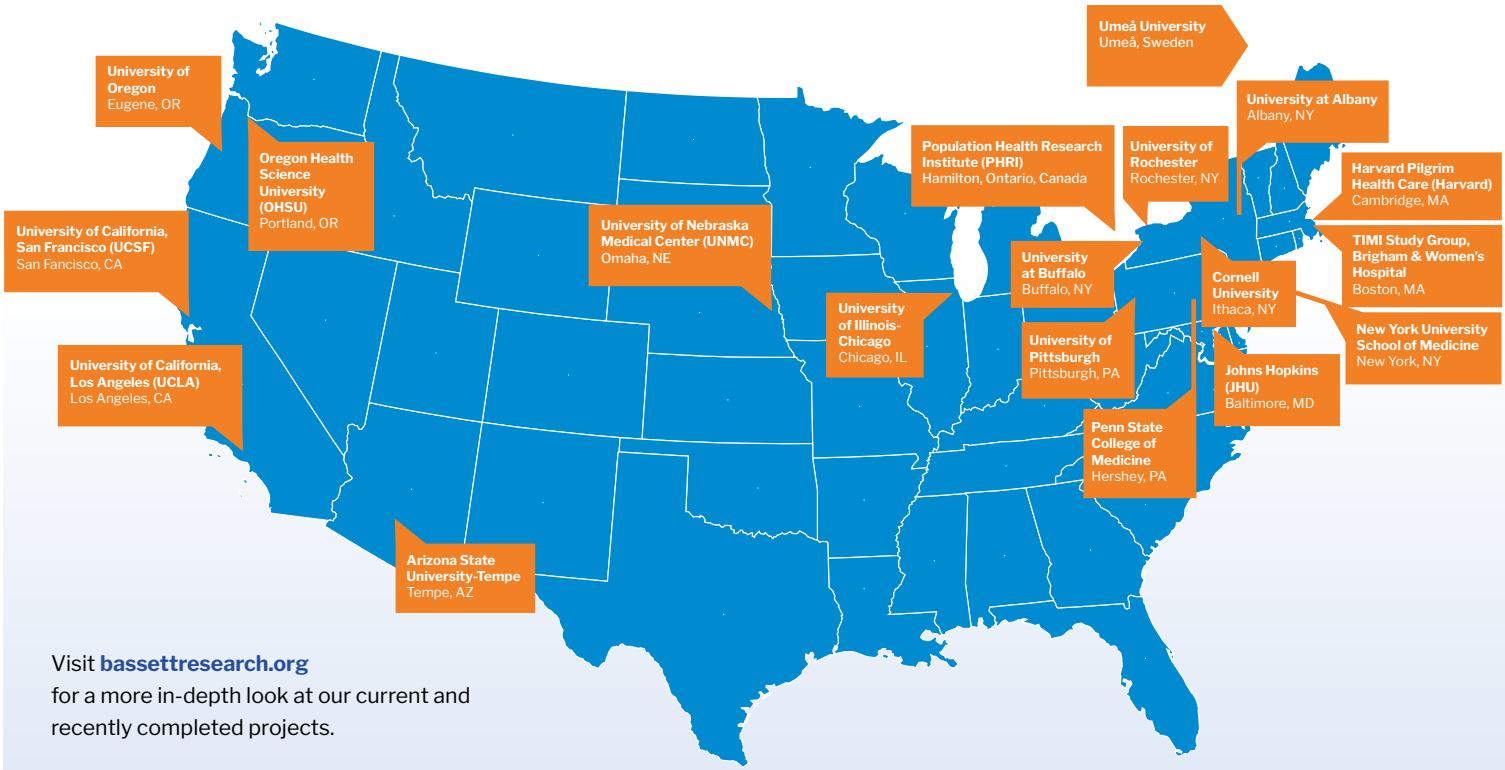
Pilot-testing HPV Vaccine Videos in Clinical Practice

Team members conducted a study to pilot-test implementation of the HPV vaccine videos that were previously developed. Initially, interviews were conducted with clinicians and the team solicited feedback from clinic teams regarding communication with parents about the HPV vaccine. Based on their input, the team began testing three different methods for implementing the videos in clinical settings; specifically, exam room posters with QR codes to the videos, flyers with QR codes, and stickers with QR codes that can be used on materials sent to parents. A sample of clinics from Pediatrics, School-Based Health, and Family Medicine will be implementing these methods through the end of 2025 at which point, the degree of video viewing associated with each method will be assessed.



BRI Collaborations

The BRI leverages numerous collaborations across the country to advance clinical science and rural health research.



Visit **bassettresearch.org** for a more in-depth look at our current and recently completed projects.

Who We Are

Daniel Freilich, MD
Clinical Scientist

Kanica Yahi, MD
Clinical Scientist
Departed Bassett in August 2025

Jennifer Victory, RN, BS, CCRC
Clinical Research Manager

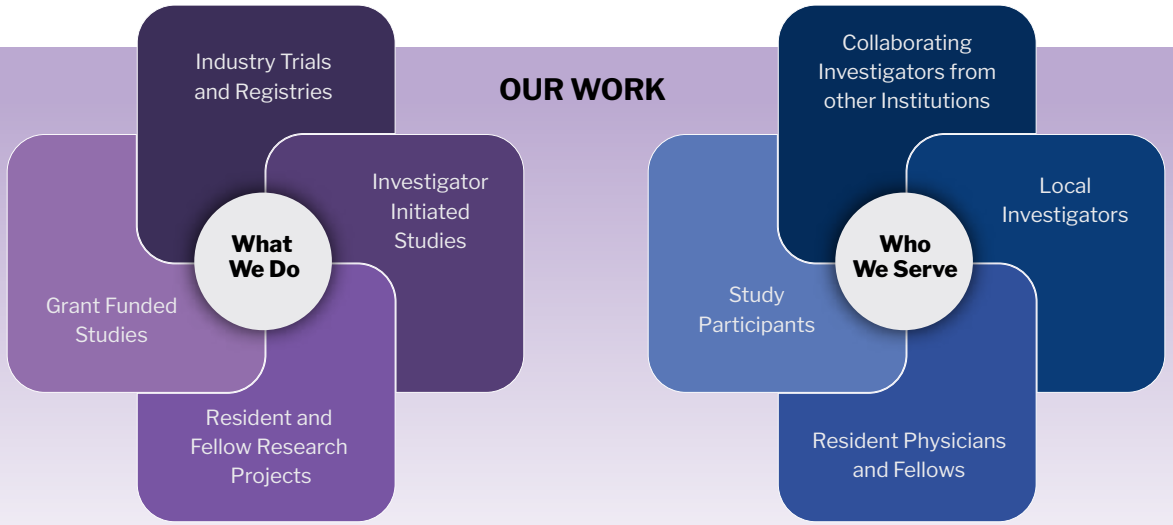
Amanda Hasuly, RN, BSN, MS, CIP, RAC
Clinical Research Nurse

Melissa Huckabone, RN, CCRC
Clinical Research Nurse

Martina King, RN
Clinical Research Nurse

Reccia McKenzie, RN
Clinical Research Nurse

OUR WORK



Active/Continuing Principal Investigators & Projects in 2025

Luis Oceguera, MD (General Surgery): Feasibility of Non-Operative Management of Rectal Cancer in a Rural Population (departmental support)

Mun Hong, MD (Cardiology) : VICTORION -2- PREVENT Lipid Study (Novartis); COMPLETE-2: A randomized trial of physiology-guided versus angiography-guided nonculprit lesion (NCL) complete revascularization strategies and a large-scale observational study of Optical Coherence Tomography in patients with acute myocardial infarction and multivessel coronary artery disease (Population Health Research Institute)

Daniel Katz, MD (Cardiology): Multiple EDT & departmental supported research projects with Cardiology Fellows and Internal Medicine Residents

Anush Patel, MD (Medical Oncology): Weight, Anti Xa Levels, and Thromboprohylactic Enoxaparin (E. Donnall Thomas Resident Research Fund); Multi-site Study for Evaluation of Clinical Ranges of Whole Blood Clotting Times of Patients on Anticoagulants and Verification of Measurement Precision of Liquid Quality Controls with the Perosphere Technologies' PoC Coagulometer (Perosphere Technologies Inc.)

Erik Riesenfeld, MD (Pulmonary/Critical Care) with Egor Zakharchenk, MD (PGY3): Home Rehabilitation After Acute Pulmonary Embolism –A Pilot Study at a Rural Health Center (E. Donnall Thomas Resident Research Fund)

2025 Completed Studies

Daniel Katz, MD (Cardiology): DAPA ACT HF (Dapaglifozin for inpatient CHF) (TIMI Study Group – Brigham & Women's Hospital)

Dhananjai Menzies, MD (Cardiology): WARRIOR - Women's Ischemia Trial to Reduce Events in Non-Obstructive CAD (University of Florida)

Mun Hong, MD (Cardiology) : VICTORION INCEPTION Lipid study (Novartis)

Kanica Yashi, MD (Hospitalist): Psychological Indicators in Candidates for Bariatric Surgery (departmental support); VALOR Lyme Vaccine Study (Pfizer)

2025 Accomplishments

The study submitted by Dr. Daniel Freilich, A Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing Renal Effects of Vancomycin Combined With Either Piperacillin/tazobactam or Meropenem - The VPT Safety Trial (VPS), was selected for funding by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Dr. Freilich has been working in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical & Translational Research Trial Innovation Network (JHU TIN) to develop this Phase III, multicenter, clinical trial. Funding will start January 2026. Enrollment is expected to start in June 2026. The study plans to enroll up to 1286 patients at up to 34 clinical sites. It is budgeted for approximately $12.8 million.

Dr. Mun Hong (Interventional Cardiology) and BMC/BRI were selected to participate in the SOS-AMI trial sponsored by Viatris Innovation GmbH. SOS-AMI (ID-076A301) is a phase 3, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study research study assessing the efficacy and safety of the investigational drug selatogrel (an antagonist of the platelet P2Y12 receptor) when self-injected by a patient with a recent history of AMI who is experiencing symptoms of an acute myocardial infarction (AMI). This study is open for enrollment.

Dr. Anush Patel (Medical Oncology/ Hematology)and BMC/BRI were selected to participate in the study, Multi-site Clinical Performance of Native Whole Blood Samples of Patients on Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) with the Perosphere ClotChek™ Coagulometer Part 2 Study Validation of the ClotChek Medical Decision Limit defined “Cut-off” Values. This study is open for enrollment.

Dr. Daniel Katz (Cardiology) and BMC/ BRI were selected to participate in the study, EASi-HF reduced – A Phase III double-blind, randomised, parallel-group superiority trial to evaluate efficacy and safety of the combined use of oral vicadrostat (BI 690517) and empagliflozin compared with placebo and empagliflozin in participants with symptomatic chronic heart failure (HF: NYHA II-IV) and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) < 40%. Enrollment is expected to start at our site Q1 2026.

Dr. Freilich’s Letter of Intent for COMbination therapy with Baloxavir and Oseltamivir for hospitalized patients with influenza – And Corticosteroids – the pragmatic factorial COMBO AC Trial was accepted for a full submission. The research proposal was submitted to PCORI for consideration in September. Funding announcements are expected in March 2026.

Drs. Brunner and Freilich, as well as the Center for Biostatistics, have been collaborating with Drs. Andrew Talal, Arpan Daria, & Zoi Papalamprakopoulou from the University at Buffalo on a data collection project looking at Hepatitis C (HCV) care in a rural health system. The manuscript has been submitted and is currently under review. Subsequently, a pilot study looking at the use of facilitated telemedicine in the treatment of HCV infection in a primary care center in a rural environment has been developed with the investigators listed above as well as Dr. Jacob VanHouten, Bassett PI. Enrollment is expected to start in January 2026.

> **“The CCR works to promote an environment of academic excellence in research to benefit the institution, its caregivers, and our community.”**

CENTER FOR BIOSTATISTICS

Who We Are

Paul Jenkins, PhD
Director

Laura Jones, PhD
Deputy Director

Melissa Scribani, PhD
Research Investigator

Nicole Krupa, BS
Research Informatics Analyst

Megan Kern, BA&Sc
Data Analyst (per-diem)

Christiana Odewumi, MPH
Intern

The Center for Biostatistics (CFB) provides study design assistance and data analysis in support of the overall mission of the Bassett Research Institute. The CFB collaborates with all BRI centers and the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NEC) as well as various other divisions of Bassett Medical Center and the Bassett Healthcare Network.

Services

Services provided by the CFB include writing methods and analysis sections of grant proposals, comprehensive data management, statistical analysis, interpretation of study results, database building, dataset construction, study design, manuscript writing and review, preparing material for poster and podium presentations, survey development and analysis, as well as mentorship of students (high school through doctoral levels).

Grant proposals

During 2025, center staff provided study design consultation and analytic plans instrumental for grant submissions, including an application to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for a large multi-site randomized controlled trial of combination therapy for hospitalized influenza patients. CFB staff also provided experimental design and analysis plans for a collaborative proposal with Columbia University's Injury Center for a randomized controlled trial of in-home exercise interventions for dementia patients and their caregivers. Post-award support was also provided for the large multi-center PCORI-funded randomized clinical trial of combination antibiotic treatment for severely ill hospitalized patients (VPS) funded in September 2025.

Laura Jones, Christiana Odewumi, and Riya Nadkarni (left to right) at the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) conference in New York, NY, April 2025.

Data procurement, assembly and management

During 2025, center staff developed data collection tools and managed data capture for more than a dozen studies with BRI and NEC investigators, cardiovascular fellows, medical trainees and nurse researchers. Several sophisticated electronic medical record-based research datasets were created by Ms. Krupa using EPIC® and analyzed by center staff. Center staff coordinated finalization of a local Youth Risk Behavior Survey instrument, developed data collection platforms for 20 local school districts and tracked data collection, which will conclude in January 2026. Staff provided technical assistance with medical record queries, survey sampling, instrument development and data capture for the recently funded Rural IMPACT trial investigating the influence of community systems on diabetes screening rates.

BRI and NEC Investigator Support

Center staff provided data management, dataset building and data analysis support for a collaborative grant with Cornell University studying School-Based Health Center usage patterns and health outcomes. This study employs multiple EPIC-based datasets and integrates geographic and spatial analysis as well as youth risk behavior data, all coordinated through the CFB. Dataset finalization and analysis were also completed for a pilot pragmatic RCT testing efficacy of combination antiviral therapy for hospitalized flu patients. As co-investigators on the Rural IMPACT trial, center

staff have guided methodology and data collection development activities. Center staff finalized data visualizations, analysis and manuscript preparation for a study of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatment patterns among Bassett patients from 2013-2023, a collaboration with the University at Buffalo. With NEC, center staff led data analysis and manuscript development for a host of occupational injury investigations in the northeast using pre-care (ambulance) records, including comparisons of agricultural injury features across sex and age groups over the past two decades and time series analyses of agricultural and logging injuries. An analysis of tick density on farms was also conducted for a field trial in Vermont as well as analyses of sleep deprivation and mental health outcomes among commercial fishermen.

Clinical Research Support

CFB staff supported the Bassett Cardiovascular Fellowship Program with several projects, including a prospective study of the relationship between high dietary fat intake and myocardial infarction and a study of hemoglobin A1c trends and myocardial infarction among diabetic patients. Numerous EPIC requests were processed by Ms. Krupa this year, including identification of patient populations for chart reviews, refinement of data definitions and assembly of study datasets. The CFB also collaborated with staff surgeons and surgical residents on a study comparing colorectal surgery outcomes for robotic-assisted, laparoscopic and hand-assisted laparoscopic procedures. Data analysis, manuscript support and data collection instrument development were provided for several resident research efforts, including a study of advanced care directives and an assessment of resident impressions of crossover rotations. Data analysis is ongoing for a survey study of loneliness among nurses conducted in Summer 2025. Center staff have also begun obtaining credentials for use of the EPIC COSMOS platform, a multi-institutional clinical dataset that includes records for more than 300 million patients across the US and beyond.

Scholarly activities

Laura Jones precepted three epidemiology Master's students from Columbia University's Mailman School; these students conducted studies of youth suicidality and bullying using local (Otsego County) and national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data and an analysis of occupational injuries among logging workers in Maine. Dr. Jones also advised one PhD candidate at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health, with a successfully defended thesis in October 2025. Melissa Scribani advised a high school senior enrolled in a three-year Science Research Program studying social determinants of health. Nicole Krupa and Melissa Scribani began mentorship of two CRNA students on a study of anesthesia protocols in abdominal surgery patients. Center staff delivered three BRI research seminars, one invited advisory group presentation and three statistical methods lectures to the cardiovascular fellows.

Publications and Presentations

Co-authored 7 peer-reviewed manuscripts published in journals of:
Pediatrics
Chronic Disease
Occupational Health
Environmental Health Sciences

Co-authored 10 manuscripts under review at journals of:
Infectious diseases
Cardiology
Obesity surgery
Occupational health and industrial medicine
Adolescent health
Research methods
Environmental health sciences
Palliative medicine

Co-authored 14 abstracts presented at regional and national meetings:
AASLD

ISASH

SAVIR

ASCRS

Northeast Epidemiology Conference

Nordic Meeting on Agricultural Occupational Health

Gulf Coast and Caribbean State of the Science Meeting

Figure. Injury rates per 10,000 by age category, Maine agricultural sector. Panel A, study period from 2008-2011; Panel B, study period from 2012-2016, and Panel C, study period 2019-April 2023. Age groups are identified by letter: A is youth 20 years of age and under; B is 21 to 40 years of age; C is 41 to 60 years of age; D is 61 to 80 years of age, and E represents injury rates in subjects ages 81 and over.

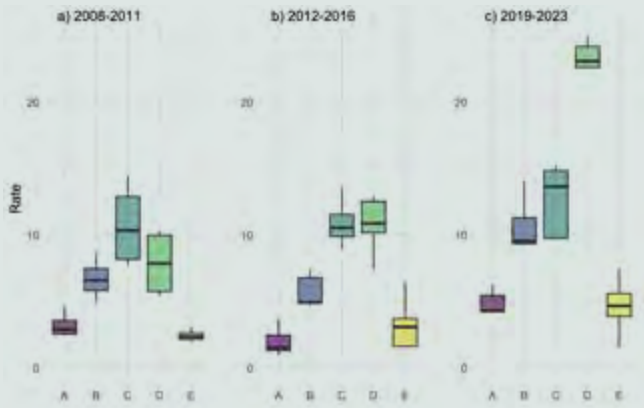
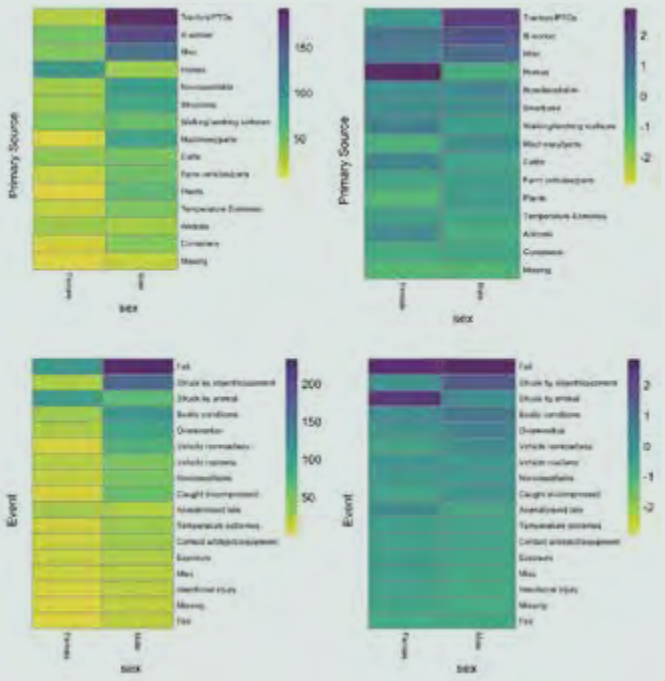


Figure. Heat maps illustrating differences in primary injury source (Source, top panels) and event (Event, bottom panels) by sex (Female, left; Male, right). Grouped codes are arranged by descending total frequency from left to right. Labels for grouped codes are shown along the bottom of each panel. Left panels show raw injury count maps to demonstrate highest counts; right shows counts scaled by sex to highlight primary injury source and event by sex.



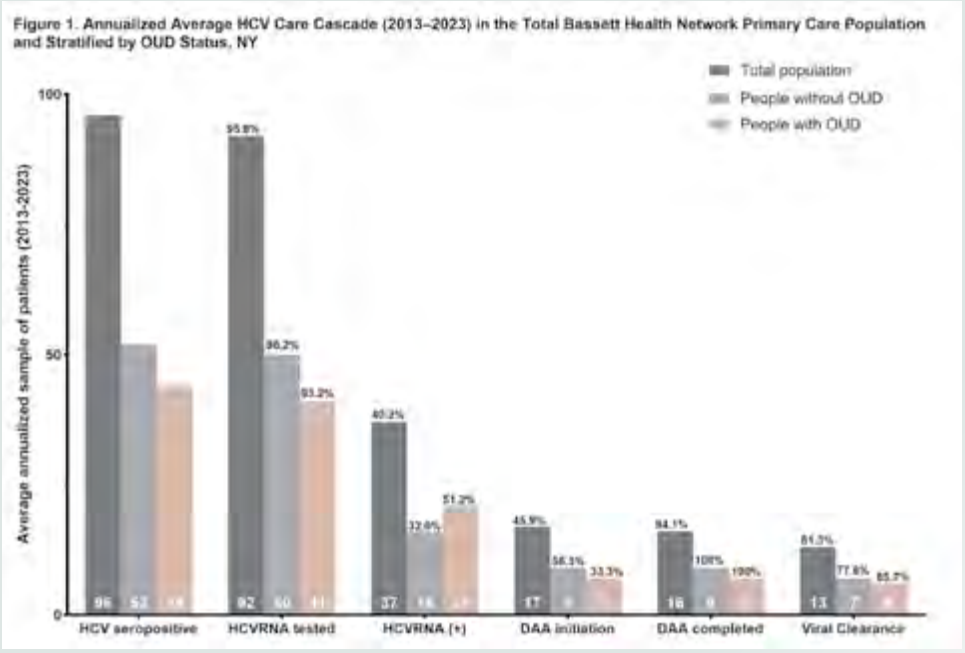


Figure. Demonstration of the steps of Hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment among all Bassett patients 2013-2023 and among those without opioid use disorder (OUD) and with OUD.

UMEA-BASSETT COLLABORATIVE

Overview

Researchers from BRI and NEC have continued to expand on a thirty-year partnership with Umeå University's Department of Epidemiology and Global Health in 2025. Umeå University, located in Västerbotten County in the north of Sweden, is recognized internationally for its leadership in research and excellence in education. The Department of Epidemiology and Global Health (EpiGH), a division of the Faculty of Medicine, is renowned in international public health research and is home to over 80 researchers and staff from around the globe. Over the three-decades long collaboration, faculty from BRI/NEC have worked together on studies of chronic disease prevention, primary healthcare delivery, health behaviors, injury prevention and program implementation leading to more than 30 scientific publications, grant-funded research projects, and four doctoral degrees earned by Bassett Research Institute staff.

During 2025, a multi-disciplinary team began work on a collaborative funding proposal focused on assessing the public's trust in science and public health with the goal of identifying promising ways of translating scientific evidence into population health improvements. This effort brings together expertise from both countries in areas of:

Implementation science
Biostatistics
Sociology
Behavior change
Evaluation
Primary care
Rural health
Public health advocacy
Nutrition
Psychology
Cardiovascular health
Communications
Health literacy

"The Lost Voice of Science" project will investigate how rural populations in Upstate New York and Northern Sweden understand and value public health research and will identify what factors may foster or erode trust in science.

Using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, "The Lost Voice of Science" aims to answer the following research questions:

How do rural residents understand, relate to and apply public health science in their health behaviors?

Which experiences and knowledge transfer agents (healthcare professionals, municipalities, educators, local leaders, researchers, decision makers, insurers, drug companies, media) shape trust or lack of trust?

How can knowledge transfer agents improve trust and more effectively translate evidence into population health improvements?

The team plans to submit funding proposals in early 2026.

Who We Are

Melissa Scribani, PhD
Director

Nicole Krupa, BS
Analyst

Pamela Milkovich, PhD
Investigator

Liane Hirabayashi, MA
Analyst

Michael Heinle
Research Assistant

Overview

The Center for Evaluating Rural Interventions (CERI) conducts evaluation for BRI-specific projects, local and regional New York State-funded projects, and federally-funded grants. CERI assists programs in defining evaluation question(s), program planning, data measurement systems, data reporting and writing evaluation plans. CERI uses techniques such as logic models, timelines, interviews, focus groups, social network analysis, surveys and data visualization to conduct evaluations and share findings with stakeholders.

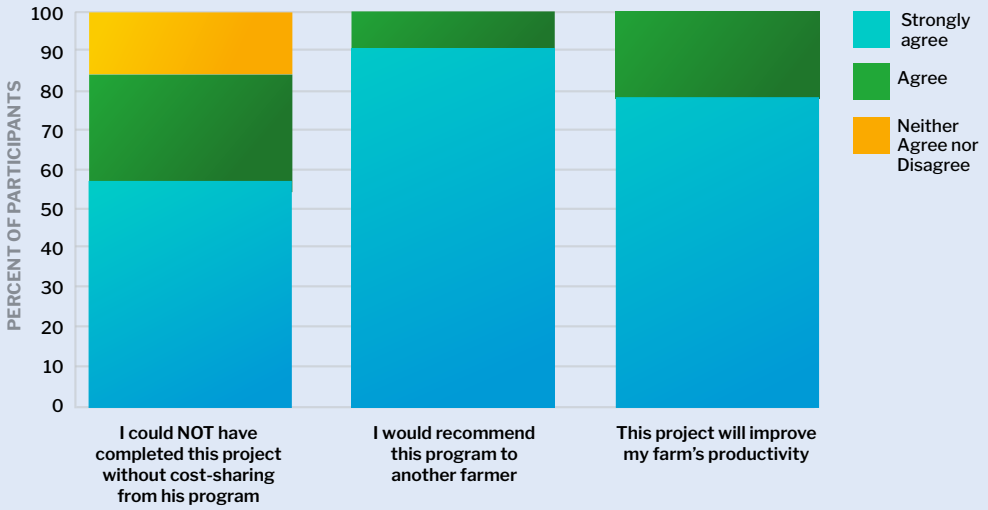
Evaluation Programs

The Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NEC) is a federally-funded education, research, and injury prevention center that aims to reduce occupational injuries in agriculture, forestry, and commercial fishing (AFF) in the Northeastern US (www.necenter.org). As part of the NEC Planning and Evaluation Core, CERI works in collaboration with NEC investigators to create a comprehensive picture of the impact of NEC activities on AFF outcomes in the Northeast.

Throughout 2025, CERI guided evaluation for a number of NEC activities. CERI led an evaluation workshop at the annual meeting of the Northeast Agricultural Safety and Health Coalition (NEASHC) in May 2025. During this workshop, the group brainstormed solutions for evaluating agricultural safety programs in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Vermont.

CERI compiled evaluation data from NYCAMH's John May Farm Safety Fund (JMFSF), a cost-sharing program that provides up to $5,000 of matching funds to small and mid-sized farm operations for repairs and upgrades to enhance workplace safety.

A total of 376 projects have been completed through JMFSF; 75% of participating farms were livestock beef operations and 84% of projects included safety upgrades related to animal handling. Results of this evaluation were shared at the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) annual meeting in Portland, ME in June 2025.



More than **80%** of farmers participating in the John May Farm Safety Fund reported that they could not have completed their safety improvement project without cost sharing from the program. All participants agreed that they would recommend the program to another farmer and that the completed project would improve productivity.

A Social Network Analysis (SNA) was carried out for the NEC in April 2025. SNA is used to measure connections between NEC staff and partners and quantifies collaboration across disciplines, geography and industry sectors. Analysis of the social network data is ongoing, and maps of the network will be developed to illustrate aspects of collaboration between NEC and its partners.

Preschool children from Cobleskill Campus Child Care Center visit the SUNY Cobleskill dairy barn.

Partner Interviews

- In person and by zoom/phone
- **8** farmers/producers
- **6** SUNY Cobleskill partners, representing plant science, ag engineering, internship coordinator, IRV
- **4** educational/community service partners – RHENSOM, ag educators, CCE, SCCAP
- **2** food service providers
- **2** SUNY Childcare: Delhi and Morrisville

Staff Survey

- Electronic/paper Survey
- **16** completed surveys out of **18** fulltime staff
- **88.9%** Response Rate
- **6** staff (**33%**) indicated interest in being involved in program

Parent Survey

- Electronic Survey
- **16** completed surveys out of ~66 families
- **24.2%** Response Rate
- **10** parents (**63%**) indicated interest in being involved in program

Summary of completed partner interviews and staff and parent surveys collected to inform future farm to school programming at CCCCC.

Working together with RHENSOM, CERI partnered with the Cobleskill Campus Child Care Center (CCCCC or 5C) and Schoharie County Agricultural Development, SUNY Cobleskill and Cornell Cooperative Extension on a Farm to School grant from the USDA. The goal of this project is to develop an action plan to bring locally produced foods and garden education to children aged 0-5. During 2025, Dr. Scribani provided research oversight and led evaluation efforts, with technical support and guidance provided by BRI staff Lynae Wyckoff and Pamela Burch. Interviews with stakeholders identified opportunities for collaboration. Surveys of CCCCC staff and parents assessed interest, importance and perceived value for farm to school activities at CCCCC.

An in-depth Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis was conducted to inform the action plan; a producer resource directory was also developed. The finalized plan, drafted by Wild Tomato Consulting LLC in partnership with BRI, will be used by CCCCC as they seek additional funding and collaboration for farm to early education activities. BRI and CERI will to serve as a resource as local farm to early education programs take shape.

OUR PARTNERS

Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety

5C Farm to School — Connecting our youngest eaters to agriculture

John May Farm Safety Fund

USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program

American Evaluation Association

ISASH International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Schoharie and Otsego Counties

SUNY Cobleskill

Celebrating Research Throughout the Bassett Healthcare Network

Bassett Research Institute hosted its annual Research Day on Wednesday, April 23, at the Clinic Building on Bassett Medical Center campus in Cooperstown. The event was an opportunity to meet Bassett scientists, read their research posters, and learn how their studies are contributing to rural health.

With refreshments available and an interactive raffle opportunity, the event was well-received by all.

The poster presentations were as follows:

A Novel Community-Driven Action Process for Population Health Improvement in Underserved Rural Communities

Aligning Community Assets to Connect People with Whole Food

School Based Health Centers to Address Health Disparities: An Exploratory Study in Rural New York

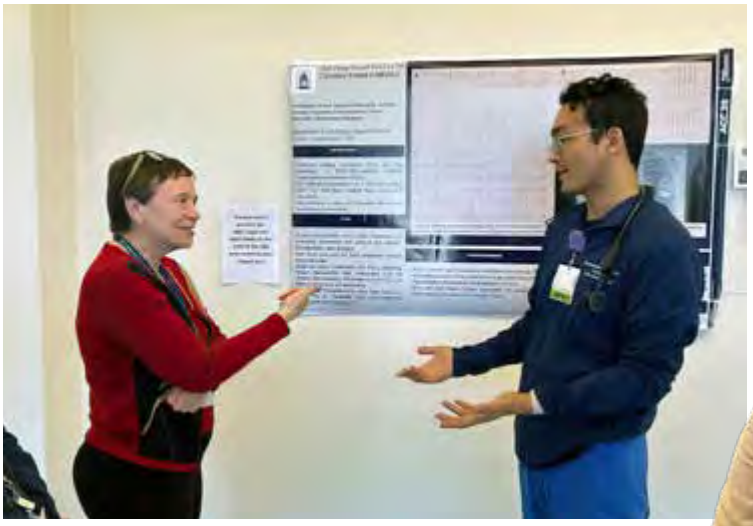
Cyberbullying and Suicidality among rural youth: associations by sex and sexual orientation from local YRBSS data (2016–2023)

Associations Between Suicidality and Cyberbullying Among Adolescents from grades 9 to 12 in the United States: An Analysis of National Data from YRBS, years 2011-2023

Improved classification of agricultural injuries from free-text analysis of pre-hospital care reports with missing data: A benchmarking analysis of four algorithms

The pastoral life becomes precarious: age and injury over time in Maine farming communities, 2008-2022: a time series analysis

The team at the Research Institute would like to thank everyone who participated and stopped by the exhibit!



BRI Retreat

On July 30, 2025, the Bassett Research team gathered in person at Glimmerglass for our annual retreat. It was a beautiful day with gorgeous weather. Staff members bonded over various lawn games, fun crafts, and a hike throughout the park. The day wouldn't have been complete without a cookout, and we took full advantage of the weather to have a wonderful lunch outside. Looking forward to the 2026 retreat!

2025 Interns

The Bassett Research Institute welcomed four interns for the summer 2025 season. Each brought a wealth of education and unique experiences, and worked on a number of interesting projects and initiatives, such as the Living Well program, Farmer's Market and CSA share, and more.

Kelly O'Neill-Knasick
Administrative Intern

Kelly holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in Health Policy and Behavior Management at the University at Albany, SUNY. Now halfway through her MPH program, Kelly is deeply interested in how qualitative analysis and behavioral patterns across rural communities influence health outcomes, particularly morbidity and mortality rates. During her internship, Kelly worked primarily with Dr. Kristin Pullyblank.

Eliana Minenna
Administrative Intern

Eliana returned for her sophomore year at University at Albany in the fall, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology. She stated that she was grateful to have the opportunity to grow professionally and learn more about the multi-faceted world of public health research. She enjoyed learning more about our community's needs and how we can improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

Fiona Held
Administrative Intern

Fiona attends Binghamton University and returned for her junior year in Fall 2025, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She stated that she always wanted to work in healthcare with a focus on psychology and mental health. Her goals for this internship included learning about public health and possibly expanding her career options, making connections, utilizing current software, and gaining experience working in a professional setting, as well as having some fun.

Christiana Odewumi
Public Health Research Intern

Christiana recently earned her Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, along with a certificate in Applied Biostatistics and Public Health Data Science. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-med with a minor in Communication from the University of Massachusetts Boston, graduating Magna Cum Laude. As part of her internship with Dr. Laura Jones, she contributed to projects examining the association between cyberbullying and adolescent suicidality using national survey data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS).

On December 3, 2025, the Bassett Research Institute, along with many friends and family members, gathered at the Clark Sports Center to celebrate the retirement of Carleen Henderson.

Over a career spanning 29 years, Carleen worked in a number of departments throughout the Basset Network, including:

Information Technology as an EPIC trainer for Ambulatory and Women's Health, Dragon Trainer for all of Bassett
Incident Command
Community Heart Program and Firefighter Screenings at NYCAMH
Prime Care
Cardiology
Pediatrics
Fox Hospital Operating Room
FoxCare
Worcester Health Center

Rounding out her time at Bassett with the Research Institute, Carleen worked tirelessly as a Health Educator with the Living Well program, consistently building connections with community partners and program participants through online and in-person classes.

Carleen was also honored with a Retirement Tea on Bassett's campus on December 5.

While Carleen will continue to be a familiar face around the network on a per diem basis, all of us at the Research Institute would like to wish her a well-deserved and very happy retirement!

Thank you, Carleen, for all you have done and all you continue to do!

RESEARCH GRAND ROUNDS

	Participants
January 9, 2025- 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **Beneath the Surface: Mental Health in Commercial Fisheries** Presenter: Amanda Roome, PhD Research Scientist, Bassett Research Institute	**31**
February 13, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm CANCELED	
March 5, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **NYCAMH's Strategic Response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)** Presenter: Erika Scott, PhD Deputy Director, NYCAMH/NEC	**39**
April 2, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **Maternal exposure to legacy PFAS compounds PFOA and PFOS is associated with disrupted cytokine homeostasis in neonates: the Upstate KIDS study** Presenter: Laura Jones, PhD	**24**
May 7, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **Research-Our Uncertain Present and Hopeful Future** Presenter: Julie Sorensen, PhD	**41**
June 4, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **It Takes a Village: The Architecture of Community Systems, the Rules that Guide Decision- 40 Making, and Implications for Population Health Improvement** Presenter: Kristin Pullybank, PhD, RN	**40**
July 2, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **Structure, Agency, and Farmer Mental Health Exploring the Interplay of Agency and Structure in the Context of Male Farmer Mental Health and Dairy Farm Consolidation in New York State** Presenter: Conor Hammersley, PhD	**41**
August 5, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **Cultivating Partnerships Between Research and Communities: Developing farm to school programs in the early childhood setting** Presenter: Melissa Scribani, PhD	**34**
September 3, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **Cardiovascular health and worker populations: Where we are and where we're going** Presenter: Pamela J. Milkovich, PhD	**28**
October 14, 2025 – 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm Title: **Primary Care Utilization When Access is Limited: Role of School-Based Health Centers** Presenter: Wendy Brunner, PhD	**33**
November 5, 2025 – 12:00 noon-1:00 pm Title: **Common Statistical Fallacies** Presenter: Paul Jenkins, PhD	**35**
December 3, 2025 - 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Title: **Cardiology Research at Bassett: Project Highlights from the Cardiovascular Fellows Program** Presenter: Cardiovascular Fellows	**29**

Presentations

Roome A, Trombley, D, Kern M, Scribani S, Jenkins P, Ostfeld R, Sorensen J. Mitigating Tick-Borne Disease Risk in Agricultural Workers. Northeast Epidemiology Conference. November 2025, virtual.

Gertz K, Roome A, Pain M, Bruggink Sulman H, Graham J, Quinn B, Weil R, Kincl L, Dzugan J, McCue-Weil L, Jenkins P, Sorensen J. Beneath the Surface: Mental Health in Commercial Fisheries. Northeast Epidemiology Conference. Northeast Epidemiology Conference. November 2025, virtual.

Roome A, Gertz K, Pain M, Bruggnik-Sulman H, Graham J, Quinn B, Weil R, Kincl L, Dzugan J, McCue-Weil L, Jenkins P, Sorensen J. Beneath the Surface: Mental Health in Commercial Fisheries. Nordic Meeting on Agricultural Occupational Health. September 2025, Ystad Saltsjöbad, Sweden.

Trombley D, Roome A, Kerm M, Scribani M, Jenkins P, Ostfeld R, Sorensen J, Sheehan-Yassin D, Gertz K. Mitigating Tick-Borne Disease Risk in Agricultural Workers in Southern Vermont. ISASH Conference. ISASH Conference. June 2025, Portland ME.

Roome A, Gertz K, Pain M, Bruggink-Sulman H, Graham J, Quinn B, Weil R, Kincl L, Dzugan J, McCue-Weil L, Jenkins P, Sorensen J. 2025. Beneath the Surface: Mental Health in Commercial Fisheries. ISASH Conference. June 2025, Portland ME.

Roome AB, Gertz K, Pain M, Graham J, Quinn B, Weil R, Kincl L, Dzugan J, McCue-Weil L, Jenkins P, Sorensen J. Beneath the Surface: Mental Health in Commercial Fisheries. State of the Science Meeting. March 2025, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Odewumi CO, Jones LE. Associations between cyberbullying and suicidality among American high school Students from National YRBSS Data, 2011-2023. Northeast Epidemiology Conference. November 2025, virtual.

Kern ME, Jones LE, Hansen-Ruiz CS, Krupa NL, Jenkins PJ, Scott EE. OIICS coding of agricultural injuries mined from Maine PCR records (2008-2022) reveals significant differences in injury source, event, and nature by sex and age group. Northeast Epidemiology Conference. November 2025, virtual.

Nadkarni R, Jones LE, Kern M, Krupa N, Scribani M. Associations between cyberbullying and suicidality among rural youth, Otsego County, NY from YRBS data (2016-2023). The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) annual conference. April 2025, New York, NY.

Jones LE, Scott E, Krupa N, Kern M, Hansen-Ruiz C, Jenkins P. Improved classification of agricultural injuries from a free-text analysis of pre-hospital care reports with missing data: a benchmarking analysis of 4 algorithms. The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) annual conference. April 2025, New York, NY.

Odewumi C, Jones LE. Association between suicidality and cyberbullying among American high school students from National YRBS data, 2011-2023. The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) annual conference. April 2025, New York, NY.

Tweedale M, Jones LE, Krupa N, Hansen-Ruiz CS, Jenkins P, Scott E. Characterizing occupational injury (2008-2022) in Maine logging communities via time series analysis and visualization. Columbia Mailman School Master's Degree Symposium. November 2025, New York, NY.

Papalamprakopoulou Z, Scribani MB, Krupa NL, Jenkins PL, Victory JM, Brunner WM, Cain ME, Dharia A, Freilich DA, Talal AH. Hepatitis C Care Cascade Using Direct Acting Antiviral Medications in Rural New York State from 2013-2023: A Retrospective Study. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) annual meeting. November 2025, Washington DC.

Rafferty L, Holton L, McKay L, Scribani M, Oceguera L, Monzon R. Watch & Wait in Rural America: a qualitative assessment of motivations and barriers for participation in rural rectal cancer patients. American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) Annual Scientific Meeting. May 2025, San Diego, CA.

Rosen, M., Pullyblank, K., Rogers, A. E., Wichman, C., Baron, M., & Dzewaltowski, D. Fostering Community Collective Decision-Making for Population Health Improvement: A Comparative Case Study of Two Rural Communities. American Public Health Association 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo. November 2025, Washington, D.C.

Witkowski, K., Lachance, C., Flynn, J., Wyckoff, L., & Pullyblank, K. Community-driven successes in improving quality of life for older rural adults: A comparative case study. New York State Association of Rural Health Symposium, September 2025. Geneva, NY.

Publications

A, Trombley D, Kern M, Scribani M, Jenkins P, Ostfeld R, Sorensen J. Ticking time bomb: The escalating threat of tick-borne diseases in rural farming communities. J Agromedicine. Published online October 27, 2025:1-7. doi:10.1080/1059924X.2025.2579639.

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Xi Y, Mielenz TJ, Andrews HF, Hill LL, Strogatz D, DiGuiseppi C, Betz ME, Jones V, Eby DW, Molnar LJ, Lang BH, Li G. Prevalence of depression in older adults and the potential protective role of volunteering: Findings from the Longitudinal Research on Aging Drivers (LongROAD) study. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2025;73:1041-1048. doi:10.1111/jgs.19349.

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Kjolhede C, Brunner WM, Sipple JW. School-based health centers and school attendance in rural areas. JAMA Netw Open. 2025;8(5):e2510083. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.10083.

Otaru S, Jones LE, Carpenter DO. Mixture effects of commonly applied herbicides on county-level obesity rates in the United States: An exploratory ecologic study (2013-2018). Toxics. 2025;13(10):894. doi:10.3390/toxics13100894.

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Famularo M, Patel P, Patel V, Ward M, Scribani M, Friedman W, Monie D, Cooper S. Civilian upper extremity vascular injury: A National Trauma Data Bank study. Ann Vasc Surg Brief Rep Innov. 2024;4:4. doi:10.1016/j.avsurg.2024.100350.

Sorensen JA, Jenkins P, Gertz K, Roome A, Weil R, Graham J, Quinn B, Kincl L, Dzugan J, McCue-Weil L. Adding insult to injury: The impact of musculoskeletal pain on fishermen's sleep patterns. J Agromedicine. Published online January 10, 2025:1-11. doi:10.1080/1059924X.2025.2451625.

Zhang X, Tennyson S, Kjolhede CL, Brunner WM. School-based health centers and the utilization of primary care in rural communities. Am J Prev Med. 2025;69(4):107962. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2025.107962.

Bae AW, Lai CJ, Yu Y, Krupa N, Hostler D, Tam WC, Carey MG, Brunner WM, Dzikowicz DJ. Structural heart abnormalities are prevalent on the 12-lead electrocardiogram among firefighters. J Occup Environ Med. 2025;67(8):e555-e561. doi:10.1097/JOM.0000000000003409.

Roome A, Trombley D, Kern M, Scribani M, Jenkins P, Ostfeld R, Sorensen J. Ticking Time Bomb: The Escalating Threat of Tick-Borne Diseases in Rural Farming Communities. J Agromedicine. 2025 Oct 27:1-7. doi: 10.1080/1059924X.2025.2579639. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41143323.

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