

School Assembly Notes

April 9, 2026

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Dean's updates
3. Sponsored Projects; Krystina Gross
4. Office of Networks and Innovation; Morven McLean
5. Faculty Senate update; Rodrigo Reis
6. Staff Advisory Council update; Leah Kemper
7. Other

1. Welcome

Dean Galea (sgalea@wustl.edu) welcomed in person and online participants to the SPH April School Assembly.

School Assembly

April 9, 2026



2. Dean's Updates

Dean Galea provided an update on the School of Public Health.

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Debra Heitz-Jacob, the Joyce and Chauncy Buchheit Professor, stresses that an important part of implementation science is adaptation. An intervention that's effective in a controlled setting, she says, "has to be recalibrated for communities that will use it."



Doug Luke, the Distinguished Professor in Public Health Systems Science, says: "The world is messy. Any new practice or policy enters a system ... where people, businesses, laws and cultures all interact in unpredictable ways."



Ross Brownson, the Steven H. and Susan U. Lipstein Distinguished Professor, spent the early years of his career in a state health department, where he learned firsthand the value of evidence-based strategies in disease prevention.



Edwin Geng, MD, co-director of the Dissemination and Implementation Science Innovation Research Network, says there's no more important time than now for D&I science. "It's always been vital, but with public health facing unprecedented disruption, we need bold new strategies to respond."



Matt Kreuter, the Kahn Family Professor, is working on building trust in health knowledge through *Heard*, a national listening platform that detects emerging rumors and delivers community-informed messages before falsehoods gain traction.



Timothy McBride, the Bernard Becker Professor, doesn't necessarily identify as an implementation scientist, but his work in analyzing and communicating policy changes in public health makes him an important part of the movement.



Byron Powell, PhD '14, has come full circle at WashU in implementation science. He was among the first doctoral trainees in the field and is now building the next generation of solutions.

Built to meet the moment

WashU scholars wrote the textbook on dissemination and implementation — the science of how to put research into practice — and have been building on that expertise ever since. Their work is needed now more than ever.

By [Deb Parker](#) | March 9, 2026





Jemima Akyea Quartey
2w

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One of the most fulfilling moments in my MPH journey so far has been stepping into the classroom not as a student, but in a teaching role. This experience was made possible through the Nurturing Future Teachers Program, an initiative by the [WashU School of Public Health](#) that is intentionally creating opportunities for students to grow as educators and leaders.

As a Teaching Assistant at the [WashU School of Public Health](#), I had the opportunity to lead a session on oral health delivery in the U.S as part of the Health Policy & Health Administration course. It was incredibly rewarding to bring my background in dentistry into a policy space and spark conversations around an area that is often overlooked in the US healthcare system.

I'm especially grateful to [M. Ryan Barker](#) for his mentorship and for trusting me with this opportunity.

Charting a new path for public health

National public health leaders meet at WashU to talk challenges, opportunities and the future of the field



Tamara Schneider
April 4, 2026

📷 📄 🗨



Panelists (from left) Georges C. Benjamin, MD, executive director of the American Public Health Association (APHA); Lori Temmel Freeman, MBA, CEO of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO); Scott Harris, MD, MPH, immediate past president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and Alabama's state health officer; and Laura Magaña, PhD, MS, president and CEO of the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), joined WashU Public Health Dean Sandro Galea at WashU March 31 for an Assembly Series event titled, "Public Health in Challenging Times: Finding a Way Forward." (Photo: Zachary Linhares/WashU Public Health)





Dwight A. McBride, PhD  1d

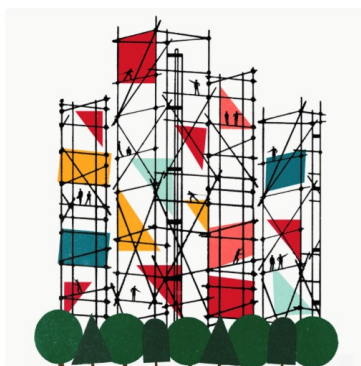
...

I was inspired by the symposium that we at the [Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity](#) hosted today with the [WashU School of Public Health](#) —“Race, Reason, & Health.” My gratitude to [Washington University in St. Louis](#) Chancellor [Andrew D. Martin](#) for delivering opening remarks and to all of our amazing panelists (both those local to WashU & St. Louis and to those visiting from [Harvard University](#) and [Temple University](#)). These were important and urgent conversations to have, especially in these most unusual of times. h/t: [Zachary Linhares](#)



Tuesday

April 14, 2026



Convenings

In-Person + Virtual

Building for a New Era of Global Health

Clark-Fox Forum in Hillman Hall, and online
6350 Forsyth Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63105
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Add To:

[Google calendar](#)

[Apple calendar](#)

[Outlook calendar](#)





3. Sponsored Projects; Krystina Gross

Krystina Gross (kgross@wustl.edu) presented updates from Sponsored Projects.

For information on research award management, see here <https://research.washu.edu/topics/award-management/>

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Introduction to SPA

Krystina Gross, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Sponsored Projects

Main Objectives & Topics for Today

- Provide an overview of Sponsored Projects Accounting (SPA)
 - Understanding SPA's roles and responsibilities
- Answer your questions!

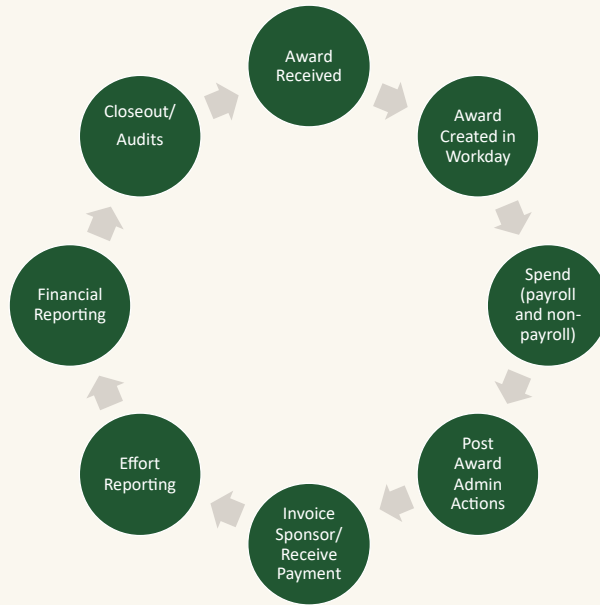


Who is SPA?

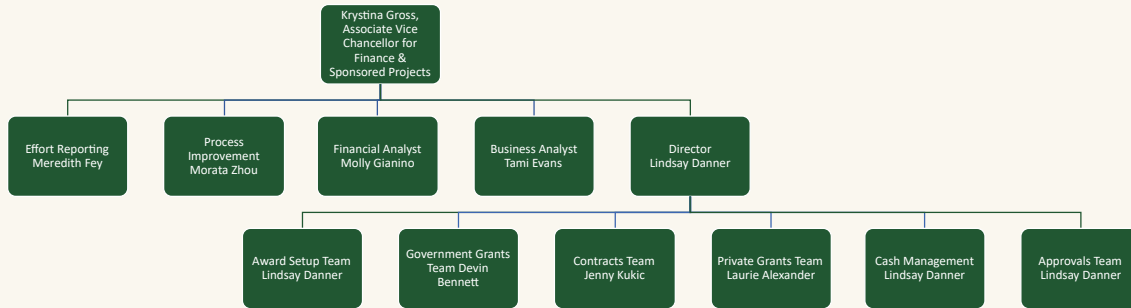
Sponsored Projects Accounting is the financial intermediary between sponsors of research and Washington University in St. Louis investigators. It is the primary source for interpretation of relevant rules, regulations and laws governing incurring, reimbursing and reporting costs under sponsored-research agreements.

Post Award Lifecycle

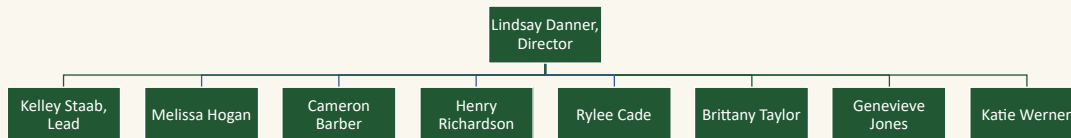




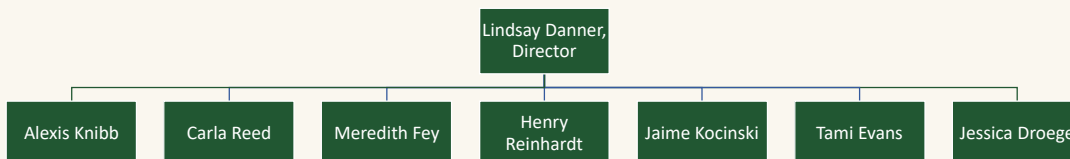
SPA Leadership



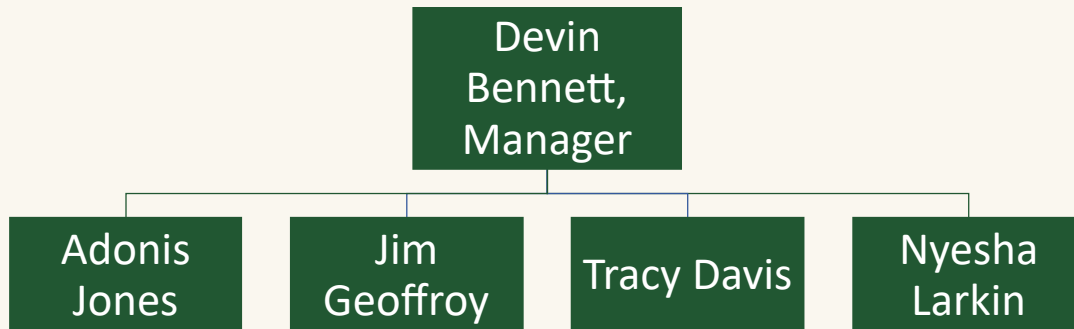
Award Setup Team



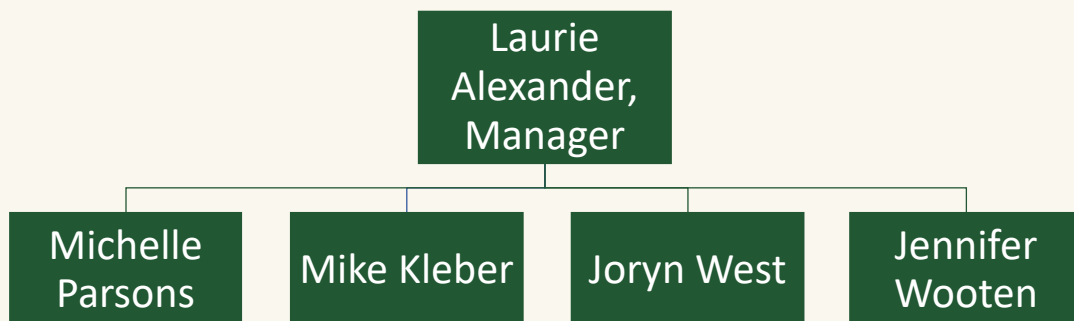
Approvals Team



Government Grants Team

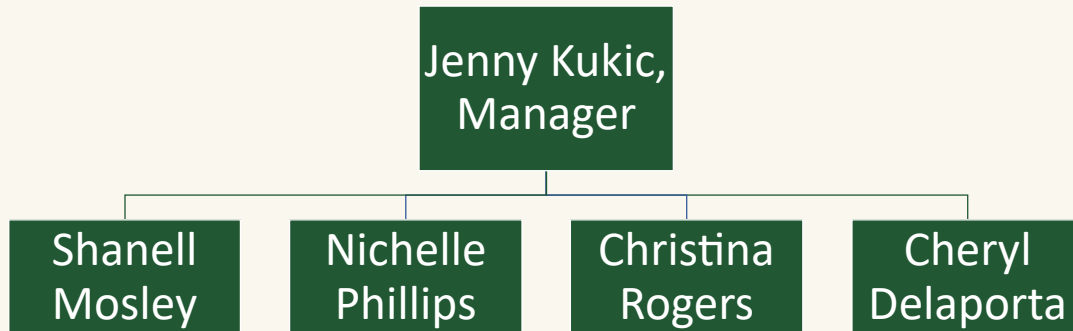


Private Grants Team

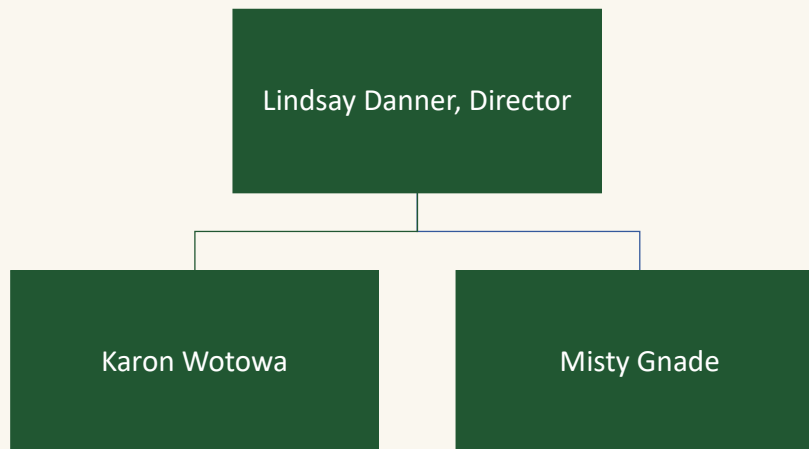




Contracts Team



Cash Management Team



Questions?

Krystina Gross, AVC for Finance and Sponsored Projects

kgross@wustl.edu

<https://research.washu.edu/topics/award-management/>



Appendix



Sponsored Projects Team Emails

Approvals Team managed by Lindsay Danner

spaapprovals@email.wustl.edu

Award Setup Team managed by Lindsay Danner

sponsoredprojectsforms@wustl.edu

Contracts Team managed by Jenny Kukic

spacontracts@wustl.edu

Gov't Grants Team managed by Devin Bennett

spadhsgovtgrants@wustl.edu (DHHS) or spaothergovtgrants@wustl.edu (Non-DHHS)

Private Grants Team managed by Laurie Alexander

spaprivategrants@wustl.edu

GR0024746 CONTRACTS 12.31.24 CC0001574 BARCH, D - SFY22 - L1 - CR, CFwd -
[CHARACTERIZING PUBERTAL AND AGE MECHANISMS OF NEURODEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATION](#)
[WITH RISING INTERNALIZING SYMPTOMS AW00009152](#)

Grant

Grant line title contains the team name



What Types of awards does SPA process?

- Federal direct grants
 - NIH, CDC, NASA, NSF are just a handful of sponsors we handle
- **Incoming** subcontracts (not to be confused with *outgoing* subcontracts processed by OSRS) – these can also be called flow throughs, where NIH awards another institution the prime award and that other institution awards WashU a part of the awarded dollars
- Private grants – like American Heart, JDRF
- IPAs - **Intragovernmental Personnel Act Assignments**
- FAR Contracts and Subcontracts – a contract governed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation
- Industry sponsored (non-clinical) research agreements (SRA)

Award Setup Team

The Award Setup Team specializes in processing and setup in Workday of all notice of awards for SPA awards and will provide Institutional Signature on non-JROC negotiated contracts. Transaction types that should be sent to this team:

- At-Risk requests
- Notice of Awards (initial, continuations, admin revisions, no cost extension...etc)
- Allocation and Cost Share requests
- Worktag updates



4. Office of Networks and Innovation; Morven McLean
Morven McLean (morven@wustl.edu) gave updates on the Office of Networks and Innovation.

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7. Other



Office of Networks & Innovation



Our purpose...

- To develop and support an interdisciplinary research ecosystem that catalyzes innovation, leading to meaningful improvements in human health locally to globally



Our priorities...

1. Advance interdisciplinary research
2. Build strategic multisectoral alliances
3. Provide key infrastructure to support all faculty
 - a) Data management, analytics and visualization
 - b) Research impact, evaluation and learning
 - c) Community engagement
4. Elevate the visibility of SPH's research enterprise
5. Engage students in interdisciplinary research and experiential learning opportunities



1. Advance interdisciplinary research

- Support the execution of the school's and the research networks' strategic plans
- Facilitate and manage new opportunities aligned with research priorities
- Mobilize resources for a diversified funding base

Climate-MAP: Climate Impacts on Mental Health, Accountability and Policy in St. Louis

- SPHERE, PS2 and GHF partnered to create a catalyst group around mental health and climate change
- Includes WashU researchers from A&S and SPH, community mental health practitioners, County Department of Health staff, and state-level policy experts e.g., Midwest Climate Collaborative, Missouri Coalition for the Environment
- Awarded Spark funding for Wellcome Climate Impact proposal development
- Proposal submitted on Tuesday (4/7)



Getty Images



2. Build strategic multisectoral alliances

- Serve as a catalyst, convener and facilitator to connect sectors, especially those that are less traditional
- Co-create research, translation and practice agendas
- Map and prioritize strategic partners and build partnership infrastructure
- Establish engagement opportunities

Working with the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

Developing a Vision Paper to catalyze joint research where SPH will contribute expertise in

- Nutrition
- Food policy
- Value chains and scaling
- Community-centered research



3a. Data management, analytics and visualization

- Tailor data strategies and consultation services to meet research needs
- Conduct expert statistical analysis and build interactive data visualizations to inform research, from data exploration to publication-ready graphics
- Provide training workshops, best practices, guidance, and resources to build data literacy across our research community and promote effective data stewardship

iHeard USA - Product Design

- Health Communication Research Laboratory (HCRL) identified a data visualization need
- The Data Team took on a full product design role for iHeard USA, the national expansion of HCRL's flagship health communication platform
- Produced user research, requirements documentation, site architecture, SEO strategy, wireframes, and high-fidelity interface mockups
- Actively building data visualization and product design capacity with HCRL team members
- Advising on database architecture and language modeling to help the platform scale to a national panel



3b. Research impact, evaluation and learning

- Serve as a thought partner for networks and SPH research teams on research impact and evaluation design at the proposal and project inception stages
- Design and maintain evaluation systems to track research outputs, milestones, KPIs, and progress against strategic goals
- Develop credible impact narratives, case studies, and evidence packages for funders, donors, and external audiences

3c. Community engagement

- Partner with community organizations (amongst others) to identify priority public health challenges and co-design research that reflects lived experience and local needs
- Use annual convenings, workshops, seminars, and catalyst groups to bring together community leaders, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to surface priorities and generate new collaborative projects
- Develop accessible outputs to ensure research findings inform programs, policy, and practice in real-world settings



Seed St. Louis Community Agriculture Conference

A two-way exchange, inviting attendees to share the environmental and health risks and benefits they associate with gardening, ask questions, and highlight community challenges that WashU research could help address



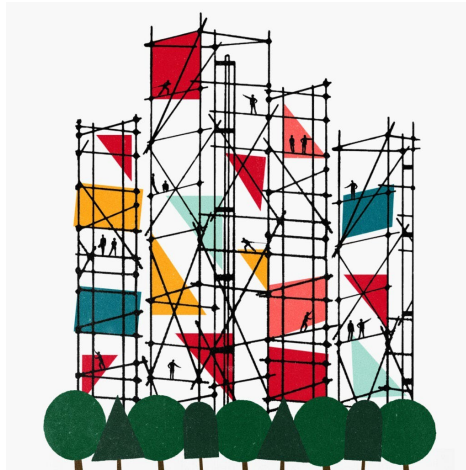
Photos: Hayley Damboise

4. Elevate the visibility of SPH's research enterprise

- Support the development and execution of research networks' strategic plans
- Hold signature annual convenings where the school leads local, national, and global conversations
- Promote research and policy dialogues that showcase distinct interdisciplinary, multisectoral research initiatives
- Disseminate annual research reports that document impact, including internal and external partnerships, publications, citations, funding, and practice or policy influence



Building for a New Era of Public Health



Building for a New Era of Global Health is the inaugural convening of **WashU Public Health's Global Health Futures** research network. The symposium brings together leading voices to consider the future for global health amid reduced commitments to health-related development assistance, as well as calls to reform or replace the institutions underpinning global health policy and coordination since the end of World War II.

April 14, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Clark-Fox Forum in Hillman Hall

5. Engage students in interdisciplinary research and experiential learning opportunities

- Experiential learning: Practicums, internships, RAs, and capstones
- Structured pipelines: Fellowships, cohort programs, and recurring training opportunities
- Skills and development: Workshops and training in future-ready competencies (e.g., communication, policy)
- Cross-disciplinary engagement: Opportunities spanning schools, sectors, and external partners
- Showcase and dissemination: Competitions, showcases, and support to present and publish work



ONI Interdisciplinary Summer Program

- Each research network creates and supports a summer research program for students
- The program presents itself as a single interdisciplinary program with shared experiences even while curating research opportunities specific to each network's focus
- 18 students in the inaugural 2026 cohort



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF & FACULTY
JOIN US FOR A

Spring OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 16 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Food- Drinks- Prizes

CALERES LOUNGE & TERRACE, HILLMAN 3RD FLOOR

Connect with colleagues and learn about the research networks and data resources. Parking available at the East End Garage (validation upon request).

TO RSVP, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
TINYURL.COM/546HWAH7



Co-hosted by the Office of Networks & Innovation
and the Office of Faculty Affairs
Email questions to networksinnovation@wustl.edu



5. Faculty Senate update; Rodrigo Reis,
Rodrigo Reis (reis.rodrico@wustl.edu) gave an update from the Faculty Senate.

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6. Staff Administrative Advisory Council update; Leah Kemper
Leah Kemper (kemper@wustl.edu) gave an update from the Staff Administrative Advisory Council.

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Staff Administrative Advisory Council update

Leah Kemper, Chair

Staff Administrative Advisory Council updates

- Review of initial steps in strengthening the SPH research enterprise
 - SAAC members reviewed and provided feedback regarding initial steps to strengthen research and grants administration at the SPH.
- Statement regarding faculty and staff interactions
 - SAAC has drafted a statement that outlines expectations for faculty and staff interactions within the SPH. When fully approved the statement will be incorporated into both the SPH faculty handbook and the SPH staff manual.
- Staff development feedback
 - SAAC members will be asking for feedback regarding staff development opportunities at an upcoming staff breakfast



Staff Administrative Advisory Council updates

- Meet the Council opportunities
 - Coffee with the SAAC
- Research community of practice discussion
 - [Optimizing funding searches](#) event and community of practice discussion
April 21st at 10:00am in Duncan (Havana Room)
- Next meeting Wednesday, April 22nd
 - Reach out to Leah Kemper (kemper@wustl.edu) with ideas/feedback for consideration by the council

7. Other

Dean Galea opened the floor for any additional questions or comments.

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Thank you

