

# SONNET

Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation

Summer 2024 Newsletter

---

## Feature story

### 'Compassion is the through line': A reflection on SONNET's evolution and future

Retiring SONNET Program Director Andrea Paolino shares her thoughts on the network's role in advancing social health at Kaiser Permanente and beyond



SONNET Coordinating Center staff at an in-person gathering in June 2024

A lot has changed since the [Kaiser Permanente Office of Community Health](#) established the Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation ([SONNET](#)) in 2017. But one thing has stayed the same: Andrea Paolino, MA, has been at the helm of SONNET's Coordinating Center — expertly leading the daily operations of a growing network of researchers and evaluators committed to helping Kaiser Permanente improve members' social health.

As SONNET's founding program manager, Andrea worked alongside the duo that launched the network: [Loel Solomon, PhD, MPP](#), Kaiser Permanente's vice president of Community Health at the time, and [John Steiner, MD, MPH](#), a senior clinician investigator at Kaiser Permanente Colorado's Institute for Health Research (IHR). A longtime research operations manager at IHR, Andrea was pivotal in helping realize Loel and John's vision for using research and evaluation to inform Kaiser Permanente's social health strategy. More recently, as SONNET's program director, she has guided SONNET through leadership transitions and significant growth in scope and influence.

Now, as Andrea retires after 21 years of service to Kaiser Permanente, we wanted to honor her contributions to SONNET — and take one last opportunity to learn from her experience as one of Kaiser Permanente's early champions for social health. In [this Q&A](#), she talks about how SONNET evolved, what she's most proud of, and her hopes for SONNET's future.

[Read the Q&A](#)

---

## Opportunities to submit your work

### Abstracts due July 29 for *Health Affairs* special issue on food, nutrition, and health

Do you have new research or a commentary to share on food insecurity? Consider submitting your abstract for an upcoming [theme issue of \*Health Affairs\*](#) focused on food, nutrition, and health. Scheduled for publication in April 2025, the issue will feature peer-reviewed articles from researchers, scholars, community health leaders, analysts, and health care collaborators. The issue is sponsored by The Kresge Foundation, The Kaiser Permanente Funds at East Bay Community Foundation, and Episcopal Health Foundation.

[Learn more](#)

### Abstracts due August 5 for SIREN National Research Meeting: Advancing the Science of Social Care

Our partners at the Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network ([SIREN](#)) are hosting their [National Research Meeting](#) in San Diego, February 2 to 4, 2025. All are invited to submit abstracts for posters, presentations, and workshops on social care research focused on the implementation or effectiveness of health care policies and practices related to collecting social health data, as well as interventions informed by those data. Policies and practices may be focused on the patient, system, or community, and SIREN is particularly interested in research that examines equity-related outcomes. We hope to see you there!

[Learn more](#)

---

## Recent publications

### How Do Curricula for Medical Students and Physician Learners Address the Social Determinants of Health? A Scoping Review

Published recently in *Academic Medicine*, [this review](#) examines the scope and focus of medical education on social determinants of health (SDOH) and related concepts — concluding that medical educators should teach not only the prevalence and pathophysiology of SDOH but also what physicians can do to address these factors. The authors include SONNET's founding sponsor [Loel Solomon, PhD, MPP](#), and SONNET Evaluation and Research Committee ([ERC](#)) member [Robert Nocon, MHS, PhD](#).

[Read the article](#)

Food Insecurity and Hypoglycemia among Older Patients with Type 2

## Diabetes Treated with Insulin or Sulfonylureas

A recent study led by [Andrew J. Karter, PhD](#), a senior research scientist with the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, analyzed survey responses from more than 1,100 older adults enrolled in the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Diabetes and Aging Study. [Their findings](#), which were recently published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, showed that economic food insecurity and physical food insecurity were strongly associated with severe hypoglycemia. SONNET ERC member [Richard Grant, MD, MPH](#), is among the co-authors.

[Read the article](#)

## Digital Health Intervention for People Experiencing Homelessness: Final Evaluation Report of Samaritan

Kaiser Permanente Washington's [Center for Community Health and Evaluation](#) recently released a report summarizing [findings from an independent evaluation](#) of Samaritan, a digital health intervention designed to assist people at risk for or experiencing homelessness. Implemented in 5 community health centers in Los Angeles, the Samaritan pilot showed promising results in addressing the financial and social needs of participants. The work was supported by the California Health Care Foundation in collaboration with Health Care LA and California Hospital Medical Center.

[Read the report](#)

---

## Stay in touch

We'd love to hear what you're working on! Email our team: [sonnet@kp.org](mailto:sonnet@kp.org).

Did you miss the previous SONNET newsletter? [Read it here](#).

*To decline future SONNET communications, please use the "unsubscribe" link in the footer of this message.*

---

*Our SONNET Coordinating Center would like to acknowledge that our Seattle offices are on the ancestral lands and traditional territories of the Puget Sound Coast Salish People.*

© 2024 Kaiser Permanente Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation

SONNET Coordinating Center at KPWHRI | 1730 Minor Ave, Suite 1600 Seattle, WA 98101-1466 | Seattle, WA 98101 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)