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From: ASCENT Consortium
To: Lindsay Kenton

ASCENT
Advancing the Science of Palliative Care Across the Lifespan

News and Announcements

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ASCENT Grand Rounds - Save the Date!

We are excited to announce the ASCENT Grand Rounds series launching this month! Please mark your calendars to join us on the second Thursday of every month from 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET for an engaging, panel-based conversation. Each one-hour session will foster collaboration and learning across the palliative care research community.

Save the date for the first ASCENT Grand Rounds, Thursday, October 8, 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET titled: *Next-Gen Palliative Interventions: Opportunities to Advance Care and Care Delivery in Serious Illness Across the Lifespan Through Innovative Research Methods*.

Register Here to Attend

FY2027 Application Cycle Update

ASCENT Biostatistics Learning Network (ABLN)

On September 8, ABLN hosted a second quarterly webinar, titled, *Methods for Handling Informative Missingness in Palliative Care Research.*

Seventy-six attendees joined the session to learn practical approaches for addressing missing data resulting from death and study dropout in palliative care trials. Through real-world case studies, presenters demonstrated how such methods such as the estimands framework, truncation-by-death approaches, joint modeling, and casual inference techniques can help ensure research findings remain clinically

Thank you to everyone who submitted Letters of Intent for ASCENT Year 2 funding opportunities! Full Proposal invitations have been sent, and we look forward to reviewing the innovative research ideas in this next phase of the application process.

Core Member Highlights



The contributions of ASCENT **Engagement Core** Member, **Fayron Epps (PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN)** to dementia care and community partnerships are being recognized in a lasting way. On September 25, **a dedicated bench featuring a commemorative plaque was unveiled at Piedmont Park in Atlanta, Georgia**, where it will be visible to visitors at concerts and other community events. This tribute honors Dr. Epps' significant contributions to advancing dementia care and strengthening partnerships with faith-based communities. We congratulate Dr. Epps on this well-deserved recognition!



Congratulations to ASCENT **Measurement Core** faculty member **Shekinah Fashaw-Walters, PhD**, on receiving an NIA R01 grant for her project, *Reducing Care Variation and Improving Outcomes: Optimizing Home Health Processes for Medicare Patients.* Dr. Fashaw-Walters will investigate how home health agencies deliver care across diverse patient populations and identify factors contributing to disparities in outcomes related to race, ethnicity, rural residence, and dual Medicare-Medicaid eligibility. We congratulate Dr. Fashaw-Walters on this significant achievement and look forward to following the impact of this important research!

meaningful and relevant.

Missed the webinar? The recording is available on the **Design Core** webpage under the "Resources" section.

View the Recording

The Future of Palliative Care Starts with Better Evidence

On July 30, Dr. Jean Kutner, contact Principal Investigator of the ASCENT Consortium, was highlighted in an article discussing why CU Anschutz is uniquely poised to be at the forefront of palliative care research.

"We have to do this work because people living with serious illness...are depending on us to generate the evidence that will make their care better. We can't let them down."

- Jean Kutner, MD, MSPH



Read Here

A Look Inside the 2026 ASCENT Annual Business and Scientific Meeting

On June 29 - 30, the ASCENT Consortium and its collaborators gathered in Bethesda, Maryland, for the 2026 Annual Scientific and Business Meeting. The two-day event featured updates from NIH leadership, meaningful perspectives from the Lived Experience Action Panel (LEAP) session, and research poster presentations from ASCENT's Pilot and Exploratory Studies and Research Scholar award recipients. Attendees also had the opportunity to connect with ASCENT Investigator in Residence (AIR) Fellows and hear an engaging keynote presentation from Drs. Linda Collins and Nick Odom on optimizing interventions in palliative care research.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this meeting a success! The energy, insights, and collaboration shared throughout the event set the stage for an exciting Year 2 of ASCENT, and we look forward to the progress ahead!



See the Research Posters from the First Annual Meeting Here

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