**Summer 2018**

Update is a periodic look at selected SSS staff research activities, new awards, corporate recognition, and upcoming conferences. For additional information about SSS, visit our website.

**Research Activities**

Unless another funding source is named, the research activities described below were funded wholly or in part by the federal government.

**Recent Publications**

**SSS Staff are Leading Contributors to Urological Diseases in America Research Compendium**  
SSS staff Lydia Feinstein, Julia Ward, Casey Pierce, John Lim, Chyng-wen Fwu, Bryan Sayer, and Timothy Powers are among the leading contributors to the *Urological Diseases in America* research compendium. SSS’ first set of three chapters was recently published on the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases website. The group’s work was also featured in the presentation *State-of-the-Art Lecture: Burden of Urologic Diseases in America: Resetting the Compass* at the American Urological Association 2018 Annual Meeting.

**Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors in Adolescents with Prediabetes**  
SSS epidemiologists Sarah Casagrande and Andy Menke are the first two authors of an article in *Diabetic Medicine* that describes the results of a data analysis to explore cardiovascular disease risk factors among adolescents without type 2 diabetes. Based on data from the 2005–2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, 17.4 percent of adolescents had prediabetes and those with prediabetes were more likely to have obesity, low levels of HDL-cholesterol, high triglycerides, and elevated liver transaminase than adolescents with normal glucose. The authors conclude that addressing prediabetes in youth is important for preventing type 2 diabetes. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

**Gestational Diabetes and Subsequent Type 2 Diabetes among U.S. Women**  
SSS epidemiologist Sarah Casagrande is the first author of an article in *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice* that reports the results of a study to determine the prevalence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) and subsequent diabetes based on data from the 2007–2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys. The prevalence of GDM in the United States was 7.6 percent, with 19.7 percent of these women having a subsequent diabetes diagnosis. The authors conclude that women with a history of GDM, a family history of diabetes, and obesity should be carefully monitored for abnormal blood glucose stability. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

**Prescription Medication Use and Antinuclear Antibodies**  
SSS senior statistician Gregg Dinse (first author) and researcher Caroll Co are authors of an article in *Journal of Autoimmunity* that describes an examination of data from the 1999–2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys to investigate possible links between specific prescription medications and the presence of antinuclear antibodies (ANA), which are of interest because they can sometimes indicate an autoimmune disease. The researchers found no evidence that most medications previously associated with ANA in specific individuals were risk factors for ANA in the general population, though they found novel positive ANA associations with several other medications.
and unexplained inverse ANA associations with certain classes of medications. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Florida Health Science Center, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

**Exogenous Estrogen Exposure Responses in Infants Fed Soy Formula**
SSS health researcher Kerry James is among the authors of an article in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* that describes a comparison of estrogen-responsive postnatal development in infants fed exclusively soy formula, cow-milk formula, or breast milk. Infants fed soy-based formula are highly exposed to isoflavones—chemicals with hormone-like activity. Relative to girls fed cow-milk formula, those fed soy formula had characteristics consistent with response to exogenous estrogen exposure, and the authors concluded that further evaluation of the effects of soy on child development is needed. The authors of the article included researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, LabCorp, and Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute.

**Changes in Health Insurance Coverage for Adults with Diabetes under the ACA**
SSS epidemiologist Sarah Casagrande is the first author of an article in *Diabetes Care* that reports the results of a study of national changes in health insurance coverage and related costs before and after implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) among U.S. adults with diabetes. The researchers noted that coverage among adults with diabetes ages 18–64 increased significantly after implementation of the ACA, and medical costs for families decreased among those with lower incomes. Coauthors of the article include researchers from the University of Michigan.

**Exposures to Bedroom Allergens in U.S. Households**
SSS research data analyst Jesse Wilkerson is among the authors of an article in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* that describes an examination of sociodemographic, regional, and climatic factors associated with bedroom allergen exposures based on data from the 2005–2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys. The data showed that exposure to multiple allergens is common, and allergen burden is strongly associated with the presence of pets and pests. Other authors of the article include former SSS staff and researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Rho, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and University of Iowa.

**Adherence to Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma**
SSS research data analyst Jesse Wilkerson is among the authors of an article in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice* that assesses clinician-reported adherence with the 2007 Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma, which provide evidence-based recommendations to improve asthma care. Based on data from the 2012 National Asthma Survey of Physicians, agreement with and adherence to asthma guidelines was higher for specialists than for primary care clinicians, but was low in both groups for several key recommendations. Other authors of the article include researchers from UCONN Health, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Center for Health Statistics, Johns Hopkins University, Virginia Commonwealth University, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The group’s work was also featured in a poster presentation at the American Thoracic Society 2018 International Conference.

**Communicating about Familial Risk of Breast Cancer**
SSS health researcher M. Elizabeth Hodgson is a coauthor of an article in the *Journal of Women’s Health* that describes an assessment of the relative importance of information sources about familial (genetic) risk for breast cancer, and women’s reporting they had enough information to speak with their daughters about it. Based on a survey of Sister Study participants, 65 percent of women reported feeling adequately informed. Communication—with providers and within other trusted
relationships—was an essential component in women’s reporting they had all the information they needed to talk to their daughters. Other authors of the article include researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Northrop Grumman Corporation, University of Bergen, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**Exposure to Oil Spill Chemicals and Lung Function in Disaster Response Workers**

SSS staff Matthew Curry, John McGrath, and W. Braxton Jackson II are among the coauthors of articles in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* and *Epidemiology* that describe a study to assess the relationship between total hydrocarbon exposures attributed to Deepwater Horizon oil spill clean-up work and lung function based on data from the Gulf Long-term Follow-up Study. While no differences in lung function were found between workers and nonworkers at 1–3 years following the disaster, lung function was reduced among decontamination workers and workers with high exposure to burning oil and gas compared with unexposed workers. Other authors of the articles include researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Stewart Exposure Assessments, Exposure Assessment Applications, and the University of Utah and Intermountain Medical Center.

**The Effects of Long-term Storage on Commonly Measured Serum Analyte Levels**

SSS health researcher Cynthia Kleeberger is the first author of an article in *Epidemiology* that describes a study to examine if long biospecimen storage times could cause degradation and produce measurement errors that would bias estimation of analyte effects on health outcomes. Samples collected and stored similarly to those in the Sister Study were assayed for 21 analytes at collection and then 6 years later. The researchers concluded that while there were differences in assay results after long-term storage, the percent changes were small and the correlations between time points were high. The authors suggested that cohort studies that bank samples consider building in appropriate QC experiments. Other authors of the article include researchers from Westat, Specimen Solutions, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**The Great Recession and Immune Function**

SSS health researcher Lydia Feinstein is among the authors of an article in *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* that describes an examination of associations between neighborhood-level recession indicators and thymic function (an immunological health indicator). Data from 277 participants in the Detroit Neighborhood Health Study suggest that increases in abandoned home prevalence and home foreclosures are associated with increases in thymic aging. Strong community ties appeared to buffer these effects, and associations were strongest in middle-income households, supporting theory that this group is especially vulnerable. Other authors of the article include researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virgen del Rocio University Hospital, and Boston University School of Public Health.

**Dog and Cat Allergens Enhance Association of Endotoxin with Asthma**

SSS research data analyst Jesse Wilkerson is an author of an article in *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice* that reports on a study that examined data from the 2005–2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys on home cat and dog allergens and respiratory outcomes. The researchers determined that exposure to dog and cat allergens enhances the association of endotoxin—released when a bacterial cell disintegrates—with asthma and wheeze. Other authors of the article include former SSS staff and researchers from the University of Iowa and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**Agreement between Self-reported and Objectively Measured Sleep Duration**

SSS research scientist W. Braxton Jackson II is among authors of an article in *Sleep* that identifies systematic biases across groups in objectively and subjectively measured sleep duration in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis. Self-reported sleep duration overestimated objectively measured sleep across all races, and overestimation was significantly greater in whites compared with blacks. Therefore, sleep measurement differences should be considered when comparing sleep indices across
racial/ethnic groups. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, University of Minnesota, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard School of Public Health.

**Fertility-related Experiences after Breast Cancer Diagnosis in the NIEHS Sister Study and Two Sister Study**

SSS health researcher M. Elizabeth Hodgson is among the authors of an abstract in Fertility and Sterility that describes an analysis of fertility concerns in reproductive-age women with cancer and the impact on treatment decisions. In a nationwide sample, the majority of reproductive-age women diagnosed with breast cancer did not recall discussing the fertility impact of treatment with a health care provider and did not take steps to mitigate their treatment’s potentially adverse impact. Among those with concerns about future fertility, adherence to endocrine therapy was less common. The article was coauthored by researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). A poster about the study was presented at the 2018 Pacific Coast Reproductive Society Annual Meeting.

**Alcohol Drinking Patterns and Sleep Duration**

SSS research scientist Rui Liu is among the authors of an article in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health that describes an examination of the relationship between alcohol-drinking patterns and sleep duration and quality by race and sex. In the United States, racial minorities generally experience poorer cardiovascular health compared to whites, and differences in alcohol consumption and sleep could contribute to these disparities. Based on data from the National Health Interview Survey for 2004–2015, blacks were less likely than whites to report recommended sleep of between 7 and fewer than 9 hours per day across all categories of alcohol consumption. Black men and women who were infrequent heavy drinkers were more likely to get fewer than 7 hours of sleep compared to their white counterparts. Black-male, compared to white-male infrequent heavy drinkers were also more likely to get 9 or more hours of sleep. Other differences among different categories of drinkers were observed as well. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Harvard Medical School.

**Black–White Differences in Housing Type and Sleep Duration**

SSS staff John McGrath and W. Braxton Jackson II are among the authors of an article in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health that describes a study of the potential influence of housing type on sleep health. Using data from the 2004–2015 National Health Interview Survey, the authors investigated overall and black-versus-white differences in the association between housing type and sleep duration. Overall, individuals in mobile homes and trailers had worse sleep than those in houses and apartments. Additionally, racial differences in quality of houses and apartments are likely to contribute to sleep disparities. Other authors of the article include researchers from Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**House Dust Endotoxin and Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema**

SSS research data analyst Jesse Wilkerson is among the authors of an article in Environmental Health Perspectives that describes a study of the association between house dust endotoxin and chronic bronchitis and emphysema (CBE) based on data from the 2005–2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Endotoxin—released when a bacterial cell disintegrates—has been reported associated with CBE in high occupational exposures. Endotoxin levels in homes were also associated with CBE and chronic bronchitis symptoms, with stronger associations among people sensitized to inhalant allergens. Other authors of the article include researchers from University of Iowa and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and former SSS staff.
Safety and Immunogenicity of Zoster Vaccine in HIV-Infected Adults

SSS health researcher Dawn Bozzolo is among the authors of an article in Clinical Infectious Diseases about the safety and immunogenicity of live attenuated zoster vaccine (ZV) in HIV-infected adults—of interest because HIV-infected persons are at increased risk for herpes zoster (shingles). The article describes the results of a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in HIV-infected adults virologically suppressed on antiretroviral therapy, and determined that two doses of ZV were generally safe and immunogenic. Other authors of the article include researchers from University of California San Diego, Harvard School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Rush University, University of Rochester, Weill Cornell Medical College, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Merck & Co., and Emory University.

Prevalence of Diagnosed Diabetes in Adults

SSS epidemiologist Andy Menke is an author of an article in MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports that describes a study that used National Health Interview Survey data from 2016 to estimate the prevalence of the primary types of diagnosed diabetes among adults. Overall, 1.3 million adults had diagnosed type 1 diabetes, and 21.0 million had diagnosed type 2 diabetes. Understanding the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes by type is important for monitoring trends and planning public health responses. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Center for Health Statistics, and University of Pittsburgh.

Assessment of Dietary Variation among U.S. Hispanics and Latinos

SSS epidemiologist Sarah Casagrande is the first author of an article in BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care that describes an assessment of dietary intake among U.S. Hispanics and Latinos—a diverse population with a significant burden of diabetes. Based on analysis of data from the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos for 2008–2011, the researchers recommend that as part of the care of Hispanics and Latinos with diabetes, attention should be given to fiber and sodium consumption. Other authors of the article include researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Northwestern University, Florida International University, University of Puerto Rico, University of Miami, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, University of California, and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Opioid Prescription, Morbidity, and Mortality in Kidney Transplant Patients

SSS epidemiologist Chyng-Wen Fwu is among the authors of an article in the journal Transplantation that reports the results of an examination of opioid prescription among kidney transplant recipients in a national population using 2006–2010 U.S. Renal Data System files, including Medicare Part D for medication ascertainment. The study determined that chronic opioid prescription is associated with increased risk of death and graft loss in transplant recipients. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and George Washington University, and a consultant pharmacist.

Blood Levels of Volatile Organic Compounds in Gulf Coast Residents

SSS health researcher Matthew Curry is a coauthor of an article published in the Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology that describes a study to address concerns among Gulf Coast residents about ongoing exposures to volatile organic compounds such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, o-xylene, and m-xylene/p-xylene (BTEX). The study determined that, among these Gulf residents, smoking was the primary contributor to blood BTEX levels. Other factors were associated with benzene blood levels, but the mean concentration of these was nearly an order of magnitude below that of cigarette smokers. (Because BTEX is rapidly cleared from the body, blood levels represent exposures in only the past 24 hours.) Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis, the National Center for Environmental Health, and the National Cancer Institute.
Mental Health Indicators Associated with Oil Spill Response and Clean-up

SSS staff W. Braxton Jackson II, John McGrath, and Matthew Curry are among the authors of an article in *Lancet Public Health* that describes an examination of data from the Gulf Long-term Follow-up Study, a cohort of workers and volunteers involved in oil spill clean-up after the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Based on the results of a health questionnaire and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) screening tool, oil spill clean-up workers with high amounts of total hydrocarbon exposure or potentially stressful job experiences were determined to have an increased prevalence of depression and PTSD. These findings suggest the need for mental health services both before and after such response events. Other authors of the article include researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Montclair State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, RTI International, and Boston University.

Conference Presentations

**Discrimination and Sleep Difficulties: Findings from the Sister Study**

SSS health researcher Lydia Feinstein was among the authors of the poster *Racial/Ethnic Discrimination and Sleep Duration/Difficulties among White, Black and Latina Women: Findings from the Sister Study* presented at the Society for Epidemiologic Research 2018 Annual Meeting. The poster examined the association between everyday and major discrimination experiences and sleep measures in a diverse sample of women based on interview data for 2003–2012 from the Sister Study. The authors found that associations between discrimination and sleep varied by race/ethnicity: each additional everyday discrimination event was associated with a higher prevalence of short sleep among black women and sleep debt among Latina women. Associations between increasing numbers of major discrimination events and short sleep were seen for all race/ethnic groups. The poster coauthors included researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Maryland, and Harvard University.

**Cumulative Disaster Exposure and Mental and Physical Health Symptoms**

SSS health researcher John McGrath was the coauthor of the poster *Cumulative Disaster Exposure Impacts Mental and Physical Health Symptoms in a Large Sample of Gulf Coast Residents* presented at the Society for Epidemiologic Research 2018 Annual Meeting. The poster described an examination of the connection between disaster exposure and adverse mental and physical health outcomes—specifically whether effects of multiple exposures are cumulative. Data from a sample of participants from the Gulf Long-term Follow-up Study potentially exposed to Hurricane Katrina and/or the Deepwater Horizon oil spill suggested that effects of disaster exposures are cumulative, with long-term health consequences. The poster coauthors included researchers from Columbia University, Montclair State University, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Boston University.

**Cognitive Impairment among Adults with Diabetes**

SSS epidemiologist Sarah Casagrande was the first author of the poster *Cognitive Impairment among Adults with Diabetes and Prediabetes, NHANES 2011–2014* presented at the 2018 American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions. The poster described an analysis of data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys to determine the association between diabetes and cognitive function in older adults. Overall, adults with diabetes performed consistently lower on various types of cognitive assessments compared to those without diabetes. The authors concluded that diabetes was associated with a lower ability to learn new verbal information and a poorer working memory, but had less of an effect on executive function. The poster was coauthored with a researcher from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

**Measuring Closeness to the Cancer Experience**

SSS health researcher M. Elizabeth Hodgson was among the authors of the presentation *Measuring the Degree of Closeness to the Cancer Experience: Revisiting the Connection to the Experience of Cancer Scale (CONNECS)* at the Society of Behavioral Medicine 2018 Annual Meeting and Scientific
Sessions. The presentation described a study using Sister Study data to examine previous research that indicated that watching a family member live with, or die from, cancer can have a significant personal impact on beliefs about cancer. Using an updated scale to measure closeness to the cancer experience, the results of the new research were consistent with the original results, and the new items on the survey provided greater discrimination in closeness. Other authors of the presentation were researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Adherence to Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Asthma**
SSS research data analyst Jesse Wilkerson was an author of the poster *Primary Care Clinician Adherence with Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma: The National Asthma Survey of Physicians* presented at the American Thoracic Society 2018 International Conference. The poster described an assessment of clinician-reported adherence with the 2007 Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma, which provide evidence-based recommendations to improve asthma care. Based on data from the 2012 National Asthma Survey of Physicians, agreement with and adherence to asthma guidelines was higher for specialists than for primary care clinicians, but was low in both groups for several key recommendations. Other authors of the poster included researchers from the National Center for Health Statistics, the United States Public Health Service, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, UCONN Health Farmington & Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The group’s work was also featured in an article in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice.*

**Analysis of Smoking Prevalence and Cessation Before and During Pregnancy in the National Children’s Study**
SSS health researchers Peter Gilbertson, Linda Andrews, and Kathleen McCann coauthored a poster that Peter Gilbertson presented at the Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health Population Health Research 2018 Summit. The poster described an analysis of the prevalence of smoking prior to and during pregnancy among the National Children’s Study (NCS) cohort, and its effect on gestational age and infant weight. Maternal cigarette smoking is a modifiable health activity, and the prospective, population-based NCS cohort offers a unique opportunity to explore it among more than 5,400 families in 43 counties across 31 states throughout the United States.

**Resources and Tools to Empower Vital Public Health Data Collection and Research**
SSS leaders of the NIH Disaster Research Response Group (DR2) project Steven Ramsey and Richard Rosselli presented and demonstrated DR2 tools at the 2018 Preparedness Summit—the premier national conference in the field of public health preparedness. During the session, the SSS DR2 team demonstrated tools available on the NIH DR2 repository and facilitated an interactive session with attendees.

**Menstrual Irregularity in Adolescent Girls**
SSS health researcher John McGrath was among the authors of a poster presented at the Endocrine Society 2018 Annual Meeting. *Post-Menarchal Adolescent Girls Demonstrate Multi-Level Reproductive Axis Immaturity* described a study of menstrual irregularity in adolescent girls. The researchers hypothesized that delayed maturation of certain reproductive axis components explains the irregularity. Their findings indicated that the estradiol positive feedback is impaired in girls with the greatest menstrual irregularities, and, even in girls with normal cycles, there are several elements of the reproductive axis that do not show fully mature patterns, such as follicle-stimulating hormone patterns and ovarian responsiveness. Other authors of the poster included researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, University of Utah School of Medicine, Endocrine Sciences, and ZRT Laboratory.

**Progression of Prediabetes to Diabetes in Hispanics and Latinos**
SSS epidemiologist Andy Menke was among the authors of the poster *Progression from Prediabetes to Diabetes in Hispanics/Latinos: Results from the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos*
(HCHS/SOL) presented at the American Heart Association Epi/Lifestyle 2018 Scientific Sessions. The poster described a data analysis that tested the hypothesis that diabetes risk in Hispanic and Latino adults varies by baseline glycemic status and found that meeting more prediabetes criteria was associated with a significantly higher risk of diabetes compared to baseline normoglycemic status. Other authors included researchers from Emory University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Northwestern University, University of Miami, Duke University, San Diego State University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

New Awards

Clinical Research Services

Provide IT Consultation and Systems to Infectious Disease Clinical Research Network for NIAID
Under a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) IDIQ task awarded in January, SSS is proving technical and administrative management services to the Mexico Emerging Infectious Disease Clinical Research (La Red) Network. To maximize the network’s clinical research productivity, SSS is delivering information technology consultation and systems including hardware and software, developing IT standard operating procedures and IT training activities for the Network Coordinating Center, and maintaining communication systems throughout La Red.

Support for Multiple Sclerosis Registry for the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers
SSS is continuing to provide support to the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers by serving as the Operations Center and communications hub for the North American Registry for Care and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (NARCRMS). SSS provides operational support to NARCRMS leadership, committees, and advisory boards; and assists with implementation and maintenance of the NARCRMS network and infrastructure, onboarding MS centers and sites, and development and maintenance of governance documents and registry communications. In addition, SSS serves as the Information Technology Core and the Data Management Core, having developed and implemented the registry and reporting tool and now providing data management support.

Manage Community Engagement and Outreach Initiative for NIEHS
SSS was awarded a task under a Clinical Research Support Services IDIQ with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to work with the Clinical Research Branch, Office of Human Research Compliance, in the planning, coordination, and implementation of a Community Engagement and Outreach Initiative. SSS is providing support for the annual Women’s Health Awareness Day event and other community-engaged research activities. SSS will provide overall administrative support, clinical research support, and statistical and database services related to all community-engaged research support activities sponsored by the Clinical Research Branch, Office of Human Research Compliance. This includes providing full-service meeting support and collaborating with co-sponsoring organizations for each event. SSS will also assist with the development of evaluations and the interpretation and analysis of data from these survey instruments, and will prepare presentations and publications in support of the program.

Health Data Management and Analysis

Manage the Medical Provider Component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey for AHRQ
SSS is providing project management, data collection and abstracting, data entry, quality control, and coding for the Medical Provider Component (MPC) of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. The MPC collects data on dates of visits/services, use of medical care services and medications, charges and sources of payments and amounts, and diagnoses
and procedure codes for medical visits/encounters. SSS is responsible for the Pharmacy Provider Component of the study. The work is being conducted under subcontract to RTI International.

Manage the HCUP Central Distributor for AHRQ
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Central Distributor was established to disseminate HCUP’s restricted-access public-release databases and related files (National Inpatient Sample, Kids’ Inpatient Database, Nationwide Emergency Department Sample, and Nationwide Readmissions Database) to researchers outside of AHRQ. More than 1,000 HCUP databases are currently available through the Central Distributor. SSS has operated the HCUP Central Distributor since 2000. SSS disseminates restricted-access public-release HCUP databases to researchers, provides first-line technical and applications support for data users, manages and maintains the recently implemented Central Distributor Ordering Website, manages user Data Use Agreements, and provides analytic work such as preparation of statistical reports. The work is conducted under subcontract to Truven Health, an IBM Company.

Epidemiology and Public Health Studies

Conduct Feasibility Study for New Cohort among Members of TRICARE for National Cancer Institute
SSS has been awarded a task under an IDIQ with the National Cancer Institute to conduct a feasibility study for a new prospective cohort among members of TRICARE, a health care insurance program for uniformed service members and their families at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The goal of the feasibility study is to determine percentage enrollment, questionnaire completion, agreement to blood draw, and completion of blood draws; time between enrollment and blood draw; duration of enrollment in TRICARE and percentage with supplemental civilian insurance; and the feasibility of linking electronic patient databases.

Provide Data Management and Analysis for Oil Spill Cleanup Study for NIH
SSS provided data management and analysis support for an investigator at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences who is conducting research into the health effects associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup among participants in the Coast Guard Responder Cohort. SSS prepared data received from the U.S. Coast Guard, created a technical plan for cleaning and merging the datasets, developed analytical data plans with the principal investigator, and carried out statistical analyses of the data. The work was conducted under subcontract to The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Corporate News and Recognition

SSS Recognized for Leadership in Many Facets of Workplace Excellence
For the past 19 years, SSS has been awarded the Alliance for Workplace Excellence (AWE) Seal of Approval. Each year, SSS has received this award in recognition of its efforts to support and facilitate health and well-being in all aspects of employees’ professional and personal lives. In 2018, for the eleventh time, AWE also awarded SSS the Health and Wellness Trailblazer award in recognition of the company’s innovative approach to employee health and wellness. This year also marked the sixth time SSS was selected as a Diversity Champion Award Winner and an EcoLeadership Award Winner in honor of its commitment to creating an inclusive and resource-efficient work environment.

SSS Receives “Corporate Hero Against Hunger” Award
One of SSS’ longtime community partners, Manna Food Center, celebrated its 35th anniversary with a reception on April 11 that honored SSS as its 2018 Corporate Hero Against Hunger. The Manna selection committee was impressed with SSS’ dedication to food security at two local elementary schools and appreciated that health issues are a major focus of SSS community service projects.
Kevin Beverly Recognized for Community Leadership at Black History Month Event

SSS President and CEO Kevin Beverly was honored for his youth-mentoring work in Montgomery County as part of a commemoration of Black History Month themed “Preserving the Past and Educating for the Future.” The February 27 event included a panel discussion on the importance of preserving African American culture in Montgomery County and a video segment celebrating African American leaders in the community. Mr. Beverly spoke of his belief in the power of role models, which motivates his work as Board chair of the CollegeTracks organization.

Upcoming Conferences

Attend a presentation by SSS staff at these upcoming conferences.

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<td>Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS)</td>
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<td>Presentation: The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Coast Guard Cohort</td>
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<td>Study – A Comprehensive Evaluation of the Health Effects from Oil</td>
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<td>International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology &amp; Therapeutic</td>
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<td>SSS authors: Julia Ward, Casey Pierce, John Lim, Lydia Feinstein</td>
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