

January 2022

## Feature Story



### Stanford Health Policy: Innovating policy solutions for a healthier world

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed what many of us have known for a long time: Zip code is a more predictive determinant of health than genetic code. There is an urgent, unmet need to pair advances in scientific discovery with programs and policies that ensure all people can benefit from these breakthroughs in science and medicine. Stanford Medicine's new **Department of Health Policy** addresses this disconnect, focusing on the interrelated problems of health equity, access, quality, and cost.

By fusing state-of-the-art methods from decision science, health economics, health law, health services research, and data science, the department shapes key policies that improve health and well-being on a population scale to help people live longer, healthier, more productive lives. We invite you to learn more about this important work. [Explore the stories >](#)

## Stanford Medicine in the News



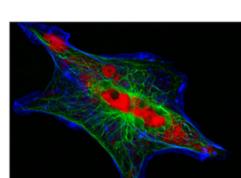
### Stanford medical specialists tackle long-haul COVID and its public implications

As a part of the NIH's Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery Initiative, a Stanford team has been formed to study the prevention and treatment of long-haul COVID. Stanford Medicine will enroll 900 COVID-19 survivors and long-haul COVID patients in the study to monitor over four years. [Learn more >](#)



### Fastest DNA sequencing technique helps undiagnosed patients find answers in mere hours

A research effort led by Stanford scientists set the first Guinness World Record for the fastest DNA sequencing technique, which was used to sequence a human genome in just 5 hours and 2 minutes. [Learn more >](#)



### Two antibodies synergize in triple whammy to pediatric cancers, study finds

Two anti-cancer antibodies have a much stronger effect against pediatric nerve-cell and bone cancers in mice than either one alone, researchers have discovered. [Learn more >](#)



### Can Prozac fight brain cancer?

Pathologist Paul Mischel, MD, and postdoctoral scholar Junfeng Bi, PhD, have discovered that the common antidepressant Prozac melts away glioblastoma tumors in laboratory mice, suggesting possible treatment for the deadly cancer. [Learn more >](#)



### Better mental health found among transgender people who started hormones as teens

Transgender adults who started gender-affirming hormone therapy as teens had better mental health than those who waited until adulthood or wanted the treatment but never received it, a Stanford-led study found. [Learn more >](#)



### Patients, clinicians benefit from team-based care model, study finds

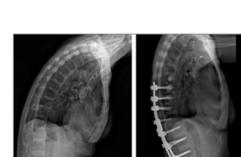
A team-based approach to primary care reduces clinician burnout, but those gains quickly fade if staffing isn't maintained, researchers say. [Learn more >](#)

## Stanford Health Care Spotlight



### Stanford surgeon saves guardsman's life with complex heart procedure

For patients like Nathan Foss, Stanford's expertise in rare and complicated heart surgeries provides better options. [Learn more >](#)



### Orthopaedic surgery at Stanford helps woman stand upright

Lilly Lee's back was severely bowed because of a spinal condition, which was exacerbated by a car crash that left her with a fractured spine. Surgeon Serena Hu, MD, straightened it. [Learn more >](#)

## Stanford Medicine Honors and Faculty in the News



### Stanford Health Care names Marc E. Jones new board chair

The Silicon Valley entrepreneur has been a board member since 2020. Succeeding John Levin as chair, Jones sees "tremendous opportunities to reimagine the clinical environment for our patients and improve health for all." [Learn more >](#)

## Why Giving Matters



### Video: A lifetime of giving

An endowed professorship and philanthropic support helped fuel the groundbreaking career of Thomas C. Merigan, MD, and allowed him to explore new frontiers in infectious disease research. See how those gifts inspired him and his family to give back, empowering future scientific exploration and creating opportunities for young innovators, through their own generosity. Watch their story and learn how you can help make a difference. [Watch the video >](#)

## Taking Care of Yourself and Others



### Save the health questions for your doctor, not voice assistants

Alexa, Siri, Cortana, and Google Assistant have a long way to go before they get their MDs, according to research by Grace Hong, a social science researcher for the Stanford Healthcare AI Applied Research Team. [Learn more >](#)



### Kids fare better with early use of diabetes technology

Setting children and teens up with the latest treatment devices shortly after a type 1 diabetes diagnosis benefits their health a year later, a Stanford study has shown. [Learn more >](#)

## Upcoming Events



### Free virtual event - Women's Health Lunch January 25, 2022

Women frequently put themselves last when it comes to self-care. Don't wait around for someday—make your health a priority today. Join women from around the world, and Stanford Medicine experts in brain, heart, bone, and foot health, for this free virtual event to explore your health at every age. [Register today >](#)

## COVID-19: Taking Action—How You Can Help

We are grateful for the expressions of generosity and desire to help coming from across our community. There are various ways in which you can support our response to this ongoing crisis.

### • Improve vaccination awareness

Stanford researchers are working to understand the diverse views regarding COVID-19 vaccination. We encourage you to help us by completing this one-time [COVID-19 Vaccine Views Survey](#).

### • Give blood or plasma

The Stanford Blood Center urges those who are healthy, and who haven't been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, to make urgently needed blood donations. [Learn more >](#)

### • Participate in COVID-19 research

Our Research Registry connects people like you with teams conducting research to make advances in health care. If you are eligible for a study, researchers may contact you to provide additional details on how to participate. [Learn more >](#)

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