



Today is Leap Day, a day that comes along about every four years, *usually*. How do you remember if its a leap year? Simple: If the last two digits of the year are divisible by four (for example, 2016, 2020, 2024 ) then it is a leap year. Century years are the exception to this rule. They must be divisible by 400 to be leap years so, 2000 and 2400 are leap years, but 2100 will not be one.

Leaping ahead...April 24, 2024 will be our Annual Resident Research Day. This year, we will be back to a normal fully in-person event! Please mark your calendars so that you can come and listen to presentations of the best resident research and quality improvement projects of 2023-2024.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of the faculty mentors who have worked with the residents on their research projects. We could not produce such high-quality work without your essential contributions!

If you routinely submit projects to the Ascension IRB, please make sure to read any updates on the home page of the IRB website. Important announcements are posted there. In addition, make sure to regularly check the library tab in eIRB to look for any updated forms or guidance. There is a wide variety of helpful materials in the eIRB library.

Thank you for all your continued research efforts and support!

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## Social Determinants of Health

We increasingly recognize how many social factors can have a far-reaching impact on our patient's health. The social determinants of health include a wide range of factors, including items such as age, sex, gender, race, area of residence, language, availability of transportation, proximity to grocery stores, insurance coverage, literacy, health literacy and many more factors. One method of attempting to control for some of the social factors that can impact health, using a single measure, is to incorporate the Area Deprivation Index (ADI) as a data element.

The Area Deprivation Index (ADI) is based on a measure created by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) over three decades ago, and has since been refined, adapted, and validated to the Census block group neighborhood level by Amy Kind, MD, PhD and her research team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It allows for rankings of neighborhoods by socioeconomic disadvantage in a region of interest (e.g., at the state or national level). It includes factors for the theoretical domains of income, education, employment, and housing quality. It can be used to inform health delivery and policy, especially for the most disadvantaged neighborhood groups. ([Neighborhood Atlas - Home \(wisc.edu\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-atlas))

The ADI is computed from a person's nine-digit zip code. There are two ADI scales—the national scale which ranks an area from one to 100, with one being the least disadvantaged and 100 the most disadvantaged, and the state scale which ranks an area from one to 10, with one being the least disadvantaged and 10 being the most disadvantaged.

Did you know that many of the zip codes surrounding the hospital are at the very highest (most disadvantaged) end of both scales?

The latest version of the ADI is from 2021. If you would like to incorporate the ADI into your research, contact Dr. Szpunar for assistance in merging the ADI scores with patient zip codes.

**Remember that zip code is an element of PHI and must be treated in a HIPAA compliant manner at all times.**

To learn more about the ADI or read papers using the ADI, visit this website: [Neighborhood Atlas - Home \(wisc.edu\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-atlas)



### ***News to Know!***

Per Ascension Technologies Administrative Standard #400, it is prohibited to use "...personal email to conduct Ascension business." This standard includes research, therefore when creating submissions in eIRB ensure that your PI, Primary Contact, and study team members are not using personal emails in the system. This also means that you should not use personal email for any correspondence related to research, and most importantly, to send emails that include PHI.

When you email files that include PHI, make sure that you encrypt the email, even when sending from one Ascension email address to another Ascension email address. To encrypt an email, simply type -phi- or -secure- in the subject line of the email.

Electronic data from research studies should only be stored on Ascension's HIPAA compliant G: drive (the Google drive). You cannot store patient data on the hard drive of a personal computer, in a non-HIPAA compliant cloud drive such as Dropbox or iCloud or on any removal media, such as a flash drive. Note that for FDA-regulated studies, there may be other regulations about the storage of data. The Ascension HRPP is working to make sure that our data storage capabilities are part 11 compliant. If you are conducting FDA-regulated research and have questions about electronic storage of data, please contact Tina Noonan at [tina.noonan@ascension.org](mailto:tina.noonan@ascension.org).

If you ever have questions about data protection, please reach out to Dr. Szpunar, the corporate compliance office or the IRB. When in doubt, please ask. It is better to be safe with data, than sorry!

### **Recent Publications**

Elazzamy H, Bhatt M, Mazzara P, Barawi M, Zeni A, Aref A. Pattern of Residual Submucosal Involvement after Neoadjuvant Therapy for Rectal Cancer: A Rationale for the Utility of Endoscopic Submucosal Resection. *Medicina (Kaunas)*. 2023 Oct 11;59(10):1807

Eisenschink J, Leveille D, Leveille R, Mollica A, Rhodenizer J. Postoperative Opioid Consumption Following Hallux Valgus and Rigidus Surgery: A Guide to Postoperative Prescription Writing. *J Foot Ankle Surg*. 2023 Sep-Oct;62(5):873-876

Nadeem O, Sharma A, Alaouie D, Bradley P, Ouellette D, Fadel R, Suleyman G. Outcomes in patients with sarcoidosis and COVID-19. *Sarcoidosis Vasc Diffuse Lung Dis*. 2023 Dec 20;40(4):e2023055

Zavoshi S, Lu E, Boutros PC, Zhang L, Harari A, Hatchell KE, Nielsen SM, Esplin ED, Ouyang K, Nykamp K, Wilde B, Christofk H, Shuch B. Fumarate Hydratase Variants and Their Association With Paraganglioma/Pheochromocytoma. *Urology*. 2023 Jun;176:106-14.





**Upcoming SEMCME Programs**

**Residency Coordinators & GME Specialists Spring Conference: Professional Development & Collaboration**

April 19, 2024 | 8:00am-4:00pm EST

**35th Annual Chief & Senior Resident Workshop**

April 26, 2024 | 8:00am-4:30pm EST

**46th Annual Research Forum & 9th Annual Michigan Summit on Quality Improvement, Patient Safety, and High Value Care**

May 22, 2024 | 8:00am-5:00pm EST

**OB/GYN Board Prep: Written Preparation Course for ABOG Exam/AOBOG Exam**

June 1-2, 2024 | 8:00am-4:00pm EST

For more information: <https://semcme.org/>



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