



Kern Institute Renovations Underway! Three New Labs, One New Pillar, and a New Postdoctoral Fellowship!

by Adina Kalet, MD, MPH

Laboratories

It is with great excitement that I announce that the Kern Institute will now have three new laboratories:

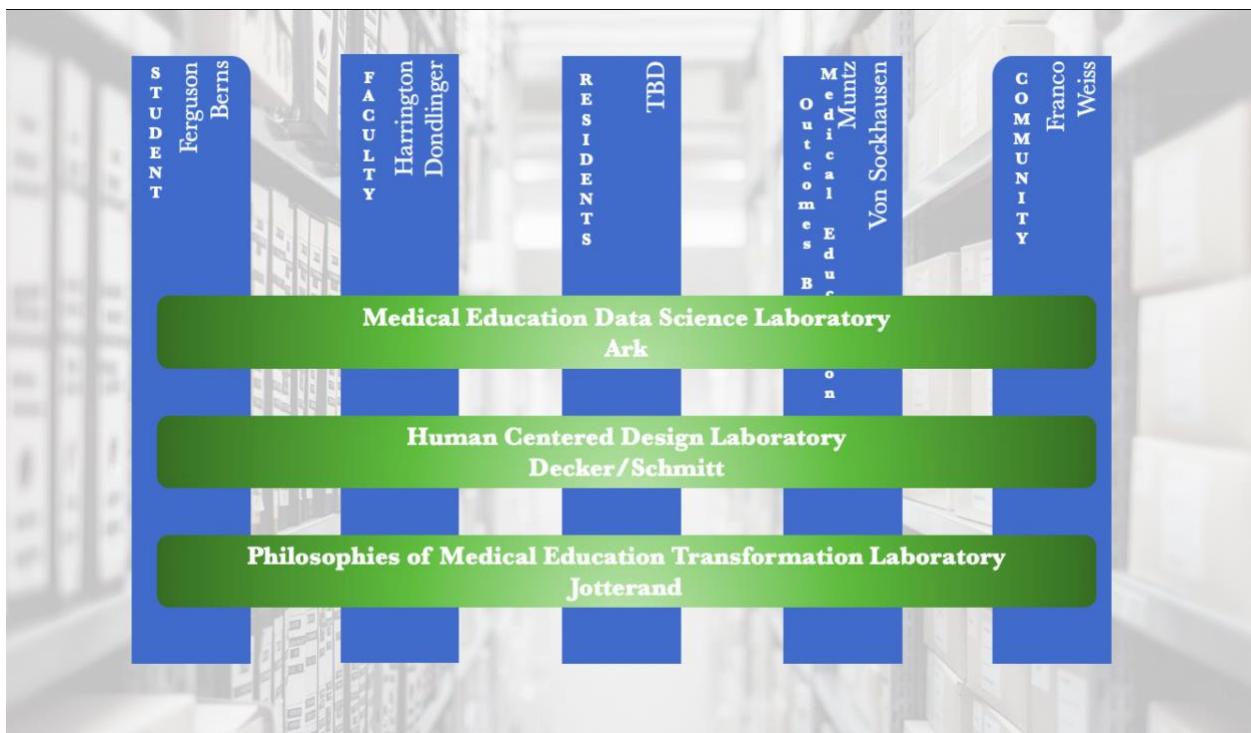
1. **Medical Education Data Science Lab** led by Tavinder K. Ark, PhD and profiled in the *Transformational Times* on [June 19th](#).
2. **Human-Centered Design Innovation Lab** led by Chris Decker, MD and Julia Schmitt. Among other projects, this lab will be the home of the Kern Transformational Ideas Initiative profiled in the *Transformational Times* on [June 19th](#).
3. **Philosophies of Medical Education Transformation Lab** led by Fabrice Jotterand, PhD. To learn more, see the “Director’s Corners” on Practical Wisdom ([April 10th](#)) and A Philosophy of Medical Education Transformation ([May 8th](#)).

Laboratories are places where people work together to understand how the world works. They are also relatively small bands of people who – with a range of specialized expertise and sometimes funky new equipment and technology – work together with stakeholders to engage in experimentation, teaching, and wide-ranging and deep conversations. Where cross-disciplinary scholarship is conducted and disseminated, graduate students as well as mid- and late-career colleagues are nurtured.

According to Wikipedia, the earliest laboratory belonged to Pythagoras of Samos, the Greek philosopher and scientist, who conducted experiments that discerned the different sound tones produced by the vibration of string. So, we

join an ancient tradition of enabling those with deep curiosity to ask important questions and seek answers.

Pillars



Our pillars are just that: the mainstays of the Kern Institute. The equivalent of divisions in a clinical department, pillars represent our stakeholders.

- The ***Student Pillar***, led by Cassie Ferguson, MD and Cassidy Berns, designed, implemented and now leads the REACH curriculum. This pillar houses our work on Holistic Admissions. It focuses on enhancing equity and belonging for all our students in our effort to become an anti-racist organization.
- The ***Faculty Pillar***, led by Alexandra Harrington, MD and Vivian Dondlinger, builds MCW's capacity to transform medical education through the rigorous KINETIC₃ faculty development program, and will be the home for our Kern signature coaching program.
- Under the guidance of Jose Franco, MD and Joan Weiss, **the External and Internal Community Pillar** (profiled in the “Director’s Corner” on [May 1st](#))

will work to enthusiastically engage all of our communities – especially patients – in the work of educating the next generation of physicians.

- In their leadership of the **Outcome-Based Medical Education Pillar** (formerly known as the Curriculum Pillar), Marty Muntz, MD and Kaicey von Stockhausen express deep commitments to ensuring a culture of psychological safety while building systems and structures to support learners aspiring to become masterful physicians ready to serve in this rapidly evolving health care environment.
- Moving forward, we are adding a **Graduate Medical Education Pillar** that will engage this critical stakeholder group in the work of the Kern Institute and ensure we are working across the medical education continuum to build strong institutional alliances. This pillar's leadership will be announced soon.

Postdoctoral Fellowship

Finally, I want to ask for your help in identifying candidates for the new Kern Institute ***Postdoctoral Fellowship in Transformation of Medical Education***.

Creating this postdoc is a first step in building a nationwide capacity working to transform medical education. By defining enhanced career paths for PhD-prepared foundational scientists, we will create the next generation of leaders that will reimagine curricula and support cutting edge pedagogies to integrate *foundational and clinical sciences*. We want to attract an enthusiastic scientist and teacher who will roll up his or her sleeves and create effective, inspiring methods ensuring that future health professionals have solid foundations of scientific knowledge. The announcement for the position is [here](#).

Stay engaged!

We invite you to read and to contribute to future issues of the *Transformational Times* as we collaborate and learn, working through our Pillars and Labs to turn aspirations into realities.

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