



HAPPY RETIREMENT!!!



Congratulations to Dr. Karen Drexler on her upcoming retirement in February, 2020!

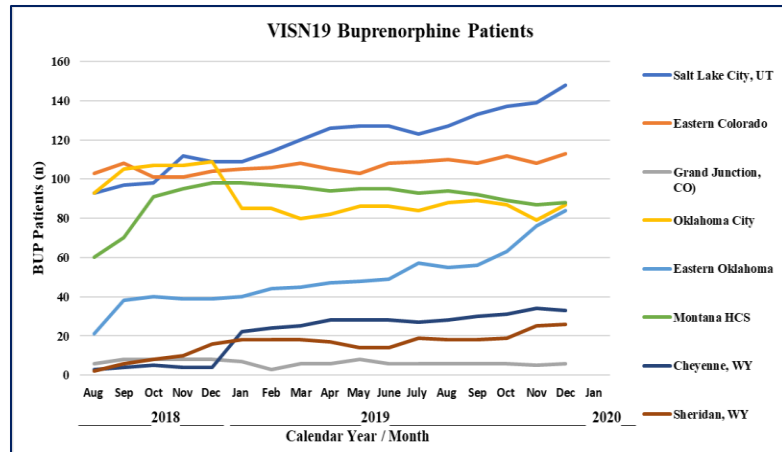
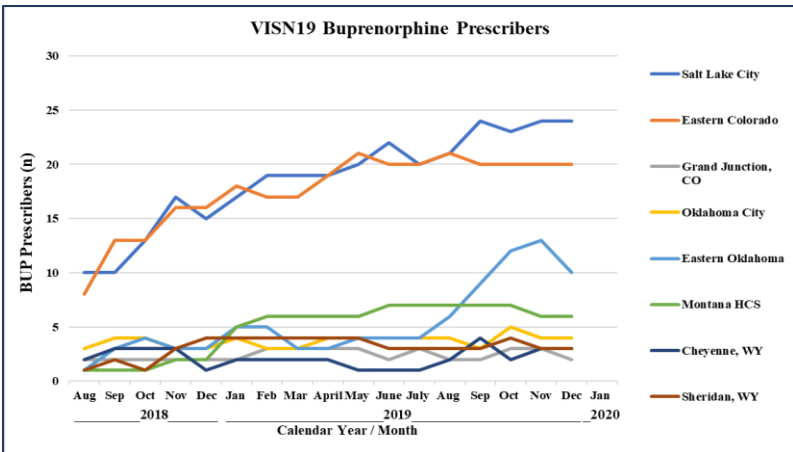
It is with mixed feelings that we announce the retirement of our beloved and much appreciated Dr. Karen Drexler. She joined the faculty at Emory University School of Medicine in 1994 as Director of the Substance Abuse Treatment Program at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, until January 2014. She served as the first Residency Training Director for the Emory Addiction Psychiatry Residency Training Program from 2001 to 2014. Starting in January 2014, Dr. Drexler served as the Deputy National Mental Health Program Director, Addictive Disorders in Mental Health Services (MHS) within Patient Care Services at VA Central Office (VACO) in Washington, DC. The mission of MHS is to advance quality of care for Veterans with mental illness and addictive disorders. Her research interests include neurobiology of addiction, clinical trials and health services research for addictive disorders.

It would not be wrong to say that Dr. Drexler has a major part of the National SUD Program in the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHS). We are and will always remain indebted to her for her services and while we will miss her and her inspiring leadership, we wish her a happy and healthy retirement!



VIP VISN 19 BUP REPORT

VIP analyzed the data by using customized dashboards from VA Academic Detailing data tools. We've recorded the number of providers and patients on a weekly basis who prescribed Buprenorphine over the course of 18 months period. The database captured information including VA Facilities, Division, Buprenorphine prescribers, patient cohort, and patient upcoming appointments.



PUBLICATION

[Exploring Quality of Primary Care for Patients Who Experience Homelessness and the Clinicians Who Serve Them: What Are Their Aspirations?](#) Varley AL, Montgomery AE, Steward J, Stringfellow E, Austin EL, **Gordon AJ**, Pollio D, deRussy A, Hoge A, Gelberg L, Riggs K, Kim TW, Rubens SL, Kertesz SG. Qual Health Res. 2020 Jan 2;1049732319895252. doi: 10.1177/1049732319895252. PMID: 31894725
[Predictors of initiation of and retention on medications for alcohol use disorder among people living with and without HIV.](#) Oldfield BJ, McGinnis KA, Edelman EJ, Williams EC, **Gordon AJ**, Akgün K, Crystal S, Fiellin LE, Gaither JR, Goulet JL, Korthuis PT, Marshall BDL, Justice AC, Bryant K, Fiellin DA, Kraemer KL. J Subst Abuse Treat. 2020 Feb;109:14-22.

JANUARY 2020 VIP CHAT

Please announce to your networks our 30 minute, virtual VIP chat on Wednesday, January 29th, 2020 noon-1 PM MST: *“The case of Tom: My patient is on Buprenorphine/Naloxone and needs a surgery—what do I need to do?”* If you have a question you would like addressed, please submit it to Nodira.Codell@va.gov.

For resources, guidances, past newsletters and presentations, visit our VIP SharePoint site: www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative