



**The Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy,
Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School**

*Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2024
July 2023–June 2024*

Introduction

In Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), the Petrie-Flom Center took on a wide range of health law policy, biotechnology, and bioethics issues, including fully funded research initiatives on artificial intelligence in health care, digital home health, and psychedelics and the law. Our work appeared in numerous high-profile peer-reviewed journals, and we provided expertise and commentary to reporters, researchers, and others on many topics. Our digital media impact continued to grow from our increased social media presence and our successful blog, *Bill of Health*, and its digital symposia.

We expanded our busy event schedule to include options for all our audiences: in-person, virtual, and hybrid events, with more in-person formats planned for fiscal year 2025 (FY25). Through internships, research assistants, and especially our thriving student fellowship program, we invited students into all aspects of the Center's research work, and provided mentorship for independent research projects to help train the next generation of health law scholars.

Our Executive Director, **Susannah Baruch**, who joined Petrie-Flom in June 2023, had a successful and active first year, working closely with Faculty Director, **I. Glenn Cohen**. With the increased workload, the Petrie-Flom Center team also grew. **Laura Chong** took on increased responsibility for the Center's day-to-day and long-term operations as the Financial and Administrative Director, and **Lisa Gorelik** joined the team as a Program Assistant to support events, communications, and finance. Following the departure of Chloe Reichel in August 2024 we have hired a new Communications Manager who will join us in December 2024.

I. Edited volumes

Each year in conjunction with our annual conference, the Petrie-Flom Center organizes and publishes an edited volume featuring four-five editors and 25-30 authors. The authors are selected from a large pool of abstracts and attend a one-day writing workshop. These volumes support scholars in the field both established and early career, creating critical academic connections. Having published 14 edited volumes and counting, we currently have a strong relationship with Cambridge University Press which has published our recent volumes. Through the generosity of our funders, we are able to offer our most recent volumes as Open Access. In FY24, we worked on four different volumes at different stages in the publication process.

For the volume **COVID-19 and the Law** published in November 2023, we hosted an all-star panel on the pandemic's legal legacy on Feb. 5, 2024. The edited volume focuses on the ethical, legal, regulatory, and broader social and institutional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Digital Health Care outside of Traditional Clinical Settings: Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities stems from Petrie-Flom Center's 2022 annual conference and was published in May 2024. It explored the opportunities and challenges of at-home digital health care and the shift away from the 20th century focus on clinics and hospitals.

Also in May 2024, the Center submitted the completed manuscript for **Health Law As Private Law** based on the 2023 PFC Annual Conference, which explored the intersection of private law and health care, and how private law can be a tool for achieving health care reform or addressing public health problems. We expect publication in January 2025.

Finally, in June 2024, we hosted the 2024 conference on the **Law and Policy of Psychedelic Medicine**, which examined challenges and opportunities resulting from increased clinical research, private investment, and political interest in psychedelic medicines. This book is recently under contract with Cambridge University Press.

II. Events

The Petrie-Flom Center is known for our timely, cutting-edge event calendar that convenes leaders in the field and interdisciplinary scholars. Highlights from our research projects and partnerships include:

How ChatGPT and Other Digital Tools are Transforming Medical Diagnosis

Sept. 19, 2023, Hosted virtually on Zoom

Part of PFC's research project Diagnosing in the Home: The Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities of Digital Home Health.

Toward a More Effective, Equitable Pandemic Response

Oct. 16, 2023, Hosted in-person at Harvard Law School and virtually on Zoom

Organized by PFC's research project the Global Health and Rights Project (GHRP).

Aligning Criminal Practice with Addiction Science

Dec. 12, 2023, Hosted virtually on Zoom

Part of the Project on Law and Applied Neuroscience, a collaboration between the PFC and Center for Law, Brain, and Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The Pandemic’s Legal Legacy: A Book Talk with Experts on the Ethical, Legal, Regulatory, Social, and Institutional Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Feb. 5, 2024, Hosted virtually on Zoom

Co-sponsored by PFC and the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School.

Unionization in Health Care: A Health Policy and Bioethics Consortium

Feb. 9, 2024, Hosted virtually on Zoom

Organized by the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics and the Program on Regulation, Therapeutics, and Law (PORTAL) at Brigham and Women's Hospital, in collaboration with the PFC.

Abortion and Jewish Law

April 1, 2024, Hosted virtually on Zoom

Co-sponsored by the PFC and the Julis-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law at Harvard Law School.

Speaking of Psychedelics: A Conversation with Ayelet Waldman

June 24, 2024, Hosted in-person at Harvard Law School and virtually on Zoom

Sponsored by our Project on Psychedelics Law and Regulation (POPLAR).

III. Student Fellowship Program

The Petrie-Flom Center’s Student Fellowship program is an integral component of our contribution to student development. Open to any graduate student at Harvard, the fellowship is designed to support mentored scholarship in health law policy, biotechnology, and bioethics. As part of our increased commitment to digital outreach, we trained our Student Fellows on writing scholarly yet accessible pieces for digital media outlets, including our Blog, *Bill of Health*. We also pair each Student Fellow with a mentor from a related industry (including several HLS alumni).

This year’s impressive cohort of Student Fellows included five Harvard Law students.

Joelle Boxer, Harvard Law School, JD’24

Paper: “Looking for Lacuna: Comparing Gaps in the Operationalization of Abortion Rights on Medical Grounds”

Adithi Iver, Harvard Law School, JD’25

Paper: “Organoids, the Synthetic Human, and the Real Patient: Defining and Defending Rights in Personalized Regenerative Medicine”

Vincent Joralemon, Berkeley-Harvard Exchange Program, JD’24

Paper: “The Business of Psychedelics”

Hannah Rahim, Harvard Law School/ Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, JD/MPH'25

Paper: “Reducing discrimination in organ transplant candidacy evaluation against persons who use drugs”

Bobby Stroup, Harvard Law School, JD'25

Paper: “Examining Communications Law to Guide the Regulatory Future of Networked Neurotech”

Student Fellow work published in *Bill of Health* this year includes:

- *Cell Therapies and their Legal Discontents*, by Adithi Iyer, JD'25
- *Sorry, You Probably Cannot Get MDMA Through Telehealth*, by Vincent Joralemon, JD'24
- *Designer Babies? The Ethical and Regulatory Implications of Polygenic Embryo Screening*, by Hannah Rahim, JD'25
- *Plan to See 'Plan C' This Year*, by Joelle Boxer, JD'24
- *The NCAA May Pay a Healthy Sum to Student Athletes*, by Bobby Stroup, JD'25

IV. Digital Media

We have worked to grow our digital media presence. Timely and provocative posts in our blog, *Bill of Health*, are a first stop for people writing in the areas of AI in healthcare and psychedelics. Our digital symposia, Critical Psychedelic Studies: Correcting the Hype, guest edited by Neşe Devenot, featured established and up-and-coming scholars on topics representing a diversity of viewpoints about the field of psychedelic studies and its potential future path.

Our affiliates continued to publish articles in leading academic journals, such as *JAMA*, *Nature*, and the *American Journal of Medicine* to be quoted in leading press outlets, including *Slate*, *STAT*, *the Wallstreet Journal*, and *the Boston Globe*.

We are investing significant staff time and Center resources into redesigning our website, blog, and newsletter to better disseminate our work and opportunities. We look forward to unveiling our new look in FY25.

V. Research Programs

Our research programs also experienced a successful year. The Petrie-Flom Center has developed a strong reputation for leading scholarship at the forefront of health law policy, biotechnology, and bioethics. FY24 was no different as we continued work on several sponsored research projects and collaborations and grew our work on others.

We finalized our work on Diagnosing in the Home: The Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities of Digital Home Health with our former Research Fellow for Digital Home

Health David Simon, current Associate Professor of Law at Northeastern University. Key publications including our Regulatory Roadmap for Digital Diagnostics.

Our existing scholarly research collaborations continued to flourish: Global Health and Rights Project led by Senior Fellow Alicia Ely Yamin; the Project on Law and Applied Neuroscience led by Senior Fellow Stephanie Tabashneck and Saul Glick; and the Project on Advanced Care and Health Policy led by Cheryl Matheis. Our Senior Fellows leading these mentored up-and-coming scholars, engaged with student RAs, published scholarship and commentary, and hosted high-profile events. In addition, both Executive Director Susannah Baruch and Faculty Director Glenn Cohen have expertise in reproductive health law and policy, and have published articles in venues including Nature Medicine The American Journal of Medicine, JAMA, and Slate.

Two particularly important developments in FY24 were the expansion of our The Project on Psychedelics Law and Regulation (POPLAR) and International Collaborative Bioscience Innovation & Law Programme (Inter-CeBIL).

In October 2023, a new gift from the Gracias Family Foundation expanded our work on the law and policy of psychedelics, which started in June 2021 with a grant from the Saisei Foundation (Tim Ferriss and Matt Mullenweg). This funding will enable the project team (including I. Glenn Cohen, Mason Marks, Jeannie Suk Gersen, and Susannah Baruch) to expand events, student opportunities, and new research. In FY24, we hosted Petrie-Flom Center 2024 Annual Conference: Law and Policy of Psychedelic Medicine, and in late July 2024, the first of three Psychedelics Bootcamp: Key Topics in Law, Medicine, Research, Regulations, and Advocacy. The project team has published articles in many peer-reviewed journals including JAMA, the New England Journal of Medicine and numerous law reviews. In FY25, we will continue to host convenings, including a second iteration of our bootcamp, and publish articles and commentary.

In November 2023, PFC received a second generous five-year grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation that enables our Project on Precision Medicine, Artificial Intelligence, and the Law (PMAIL) to continue its close collaboration with the International Collaborative Bioscience Innovation & Law Programme (Inter-CeBIL). Inter-CeBIL, which is led by Principal Investigator and NNF grant-holder Professor Timo Minssen at the University of Copenhagen's Faculty of Law, aims to support the life science ecosystem by understanding and tackling legal and regulatory barriers to the development of innovative solutions within health and sustainability. The project published Research Handbook on Health, AI and the Law co-edited by Glenn Cohen, and published articles in Fortune among other venues. In FY25, we're looking forward to hiring a research fellow to help direct the work of this project.