

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Rebecca A. Aslakson, M.D. Ph.D. FAAHPM FCCM

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): RASLAKS1

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor of Medicine & Anesthesiology

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	MM/YY	FIELD OF STUDY
Washington University in St. Louis	B.A.	1994-1998	Biology/Mathematics
Harvard Medical School – Massachusetts Institute of Technology Health, Sciences, and Technology Program	M.D.	1998-2003	Medicine
The University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland	M.Sci.	2000-2001	Biomedical Science
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine/Public Health	Ph.D.	2008-2013	Clinical Investigation

A. Personal Statement

My career goal is to improve delivery of palliative care, particularly to perioperative and critically ill populations as well as in communities of color. Triple boarded in critical care, anesthesia, and hospice and palliative medicine and with a PhD in clinical research and advanced graduate training in qualitative methods, I am devoted to an academic career improving the delivery of palliative care. To forward these goals, I have been a PI or co-I on multiple studies supported through both extramural (i.e., PCORI, AHRQ, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, The National Palliative Care Research Center) and intramural (i.e, Johns Hopkins University, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) funders. I have also received national awards for my research work including: being named an American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) “40 under 40” inspirational leader in palliative care; the 2014 American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Presidential Scholar Award – given to the top early career anesthesia clinician researcher in the country (first time ASA recognized palliative care research) – and the 2015 AAHPM Early Investigator Award – given to the top early career palliative care researcher in the country. After a decade working at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, I just took a position to lead palliative care research activities and endeavors at the Stanford School of Medicine as well as across Stanford University and Stanford University Medical Center and its other hospital and outpatient affiliates.

B. Positions and Honors**Positions and employment** (*In order from least to most recent*)

START DATE (MM/YY)	END DATE (MM/YY)	POSITION TITLE	INSTITUTION	LOCATION
07/03	06/04	Intern	The Newton Wellesley Hospital	Newton, MA
08/04	08/07	Resident	Massachusetts General Hospital	Boston, MA
09/07	09/08	Fellow	The Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Medicine (JHH-SOM)	Baltimore, MD
09/08	09/14	Assistant Professor	JHH-SOM	Baltimore, MD
10/13	09/17	Core Faculty	Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety	Baltimore, MD
09/14	09/17	Associate Professor	JHH-SOM	Baltimore, MD
10/14	09/17	Associate Professor	Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center	Baltimore, MD
06/15	Present	Associate Professor	The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Baltimore, MD

08/16	Present	Associate Professor	Johns Hopkins School of Nursing	Baltimore, MD
03/18	Present	Associate Professor	Stanford University School of Medicine	Stanford, CA

Other experience and professional memberships *(In order from least to most recent)*

YEAR	TITLE <i>(member, advisor, etc.)</i>	INSTITUTION
2004 – 2013 –	Member National Committee	American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) ASA – Committee on Palliative Medicine Vice Chair (2016-2018), Chair (2018-)
2014 – 2017	National Committee	ASA – Committee on Excellence in Research
2006 –	Member	Society of Critical Care Medicine
2013 –2017	Int'l Committee	Family Centered Care in ICU
2016 –	National Committee	Scientific Review
2010 –	Member	American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine
2013 –	National Committee	AAHPM - Research Committee
2015 –2017	National Committee	Chair (2018-) AAHPM – Nominating Committee
2010 –	Member	International Anesthesia Research Society
2010 –	Member	Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists

Honors (selected) *(In order from least to most recent)*

YEAR	HONOR NAME
1994	Arthur Holly Compton Scholarship, four-year, full tuition merit scholarship
1994	National Science Scholarship
1994	Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship
1997	Barry Goldwater Scholarship
1999	George Mitchell Scholarship, 1 yr, full tuition, awarded to 12 graduate students
2000	International Achievement Summit, 1 of 125 international graduate students
2004	Hospitalist Award-top medical intern; Newton Wellesley Hospital (NWH), Newton MA
2004	Department of Surgery Award-top surgical intern; NWH, Newton MA
2007	Finalist, Harvard Medical Student Teaching Award, only anesthesiologist nominated
2008	Excellence in Teaching in Surgical Critical Care, The Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) Baltimore MD
2011	Anesthesia “Young Investigator” talk for Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM)
2011	Named “Best in Baltimore” palliative medicine doctor by Baltimore Magazine
2012	Selected to represent 5,000 member American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) on American Medical Association Physician Consortium
2013	Presented research to “Best Practices Group”-National Cancer Hospital Consortium
2013	Outstanding New Educational Program Award - Institute for Educational Excellence
2013	Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Clinician Scientist Award
2014	AAHPM Speaker Award
2014	American Society of Anesthesiologists Presidential Scholar Award
2015	AAHPM “40 under 40” national inspirational leader in palliative care
2015	AAHPM Early Career Investigator Award
2016	SCCM Presidential Citation
2017	SCCM Presidential Citation

C. Contributions to Science

1. ICU-based palliative care – A major research focus is improving delivery of palliative care to ICU patients and their families, particularly in surgical ICUs. I am an internationally recognized leader and content expert in ICU-based palliative care and patient and family-centered ICU care with my research work exploring ways to improve delivery of palliative care in the ICU.

1. **Aslakson RA**, Reinke LF, Cox C, Kross EK, Benzo RP, Curtis JR. Developing a research agenda for integrating palliative care into critical care and pulmonary practice to improve patient and family outcomes. *J Palliat Med* 2017; 20(4):329-43.
2. **Aslakson RA**, Curtis JR, Nelson JE. The changing role of palliative care in the ICU. *Crit Care Med* 2014;42(11):2418-28.
3. **Aslakson RA**, Cheng J, Vollenwieder D, Galusca D, Smith TJ, Pronovost PJ. What is evidence-base palliative care in the intensive care unit? – a systematic review of interventions. *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 2014; 17(2):219-235.
4. Davidson JE, **Aslakson RA**, Long AC, *et al.* Guidelines for family-centered care in the neonatal, pediatric, and adult ICU. *Crit Care Med* 2017; 45(1):103-28

2. Perioperative palliative care – Another major research focus is improving delivery of advance care planning and palliative care to surgical patient populations. I am a nationally recognized content expert on this topic with my research work exploring both primary and specialist palliative care delivery models for surgical patient populations.

1. Shander A, Gandhi N, **Aslakson RA**. Anesthesiologists and the quality of death. *Anesthesia & Analgesia* 2014;118(4):695-697.
2. **Aslakson RA**, Coyle M, Wyskiel R, Copley C, Han K, Ahuja N, Pronovost PJ. Lessons learned from a palliative care-related communication intervention in an adult surgical intensive care unit. *J Palliat Care Med* 5: 240.
3. Gustin AN, **Aslakson RA**. Palliative care for the geriatric anesthesiologist. *Anesthesiol Clin* 2015;33(3):591-605.
4. **Aslakson RA**, Wyskiel R, Shaeffer D, Zyra M, Ahuja N, Nelson J, Pronovost PJ. Surgical intensive care unit clinician estimates of the adequacy of communication regarding patient prognosis. *Critical Care* 2010; 14(6):R218.

3. Palliative care outcomes research – I am a content expert on palliative care interventions and palliative care outcomes research in both community and hospital-based settings. I have been a co-PI and co-I on two AHRQ-funded projects specifically related to palliative care interventions and palliative care assessment tools.

1. **Aslakson R**, Dy SM, Wilson RF, Waldfogal JM, Zhang A, Isenberg SR, Blair A, Sixon J, Robinson KA. Assessment Tools for Palliative Care. Technical Brief No. 30 (Prepared by the Johns Hopkins University under Contract. No. 290-2015-00006-I.) AHRQ Publication No. 14-17-EHC007-EF. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; May 2017. www.effectivehealthcare.arhq.gov/reports/final.cfm.doi: <https://doi.org/10.23970/AHRQEPCTB30>.
2. Dy SM, **Aslakson RA**, Wilson RF, Fawole OA, Lau BD, Martinez KA, Vollenweider D, Apostol C, Bass EB. Interventions to improve health care and palliative care for advanced and serious illness. Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science. Evidence Report No. 208. (Prepared by the Johns Hopkins University Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract. No. 290-2007-10061-I.) AHRQ Publication No. 12-E014-EF. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. October 2012. www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/reports/final.cfm
3. Fawole O, Dy SM, Wilson RF, Lau BD, Martinez KA, Apostol CC, Vollenweider D, Bass EB, **Aslakson RA**. A systematic review of communication quality improvement interventions for patients with advanced and serious illness. *J Gen Int Med* 2013, 28(4):570-7.

4. Dy S, Wilson RF, Fawole O, Lau BD, Martinez KA, Apostol CC, Bass EB, **Aslakson RA**. Continuity, coordination and transitions of care for patients with serious and advanced illness: a systematic review of interventions. *J Pall Med* 2013; 16(4):436-445.

4. Patient centered outcomes research – I am a national leader in patient-centered outcomes research, particularly concerning palliative care and advance care planning. Even before the development of the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), I was partnering with patient and family members to develop research questions, conduct studies, analyze results, and disseminate findings. Supportive of this dedication, I have received three PCORI contracts and am considered a national content expert in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR). I frequently speak about PCOR – what it is, how to do it, how to fund it – at national meetings for professional societies and for PCORI. I have also been a scientific reviewer for PCORI study sections since 2013 and have been a national advisory board member for PCORI since 2016.

1. **Aslakson RA**, Schuster ALR, Lynch TJ, Weiss MJ, Gregg L, Miller J, Isenberg SR, Crossnohere NL, Conca-Cheng AM, Volandes AE, Smith TJ, Bridges JFP. Developing the storyline for an advance care planning video for surgery patients: patient-centered outcomes research engagement from stakeholder summit to state fair. *J Palliat Med* 2017; epub ahead of print 17 August 2017
2. **Aslakson RA**, Weiss M. Make way for PCOR: Opportunities for novel, innovative, and transformative partnerships with patients and their families. *JAMA Surgery* 2016; 151(10):945-6.
3. **Aslakson RA**, Schuster ALR, Reardon J, Lynch TL, Suarez-Cuervo C, Miller JA, Moldovan R, Johnston F, Anton B, Weiss M, Bridges JFP. Promoting perioperative advance care planning: a systematic review of advance care planning aids. *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness* 2015; 4(6):615-50.
4. Mitchell IA, Schuster ALR, Lynch TL, Smith KC, Bridges JFP, **Aslakson RA**. Why don't end-of-life conversations go viral? A review of videos on YouTube. *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*, Epub ahead of Print 2015 July 16
5. Hendricks Sloan D, Peters T, Johnson KS, Bowie JV, Ting Y, **Aslakson RA**. Church-based health promotion focused on advance care planning and end-of-life care at Black Baptist churches: a cross sectional survey. *J Pall Med* 2016; 19(2):190-4.

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/10ai9yCkdyxku/bibliography/40287732/public/?sort=date&direction=descending>

D. Research Support

Ongoing

PCORI (Aslakson)

4/1/18-3/31/21

Pioneering Perioperative Palliative Care for Surgical Oncology Patients.

The overall project goal is to complete a multi-center, randomized controlled trial of perioperative palliative care for patients and families preparing for major upper gastro-intestinal oncologic surgeries.

TIA (Aslakson)

National Palliative Care Research Center

7/1/17-6/30/18

“What palliative care can be ‘baked in’ to a preoperative assessment?” – operationalizing primary palliative care in surgical settings

The overall project goal is to complete a mixed methods study among diverse perioperative providers to clarify and prioritize what elements of primary palliative care could be most easily integrated into standard surgical practices.

Pending

Frontiers in Anesthesia Research Award (Aslakson)

7/1/18-6/30/21

International Anesthesia Research Society

Perioperative palliative care to improve surgical care quality and safety

The overall project goal is to develop and pilot a perioperative palliative care intervention to ultimately improve patient- and caregiver-reported outcomes among women pursuing gynecologic oncologic surgery.

Completed (selected)

4362 (Aslakson)

7/1/13-11/1/2017

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Utilizing advance care planning videos to empower perioperative cancer patients and families

The overall goal of this project is to develop and evaluate a video-based advance care planning decision aid for patient and families preparing for high-risk surgeries.

PCORI (Aslakson & Pitts)

4/1/16-3/31/18

Engagement Award

UNITED in Faith, Health, and Strength - Facilitating Strategic Partnerships for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research in Advanced Illness Care among African American Faith Organizations

In collaboration with the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care, the overall goal of this project is to conduct one national workshop, two regional workshops, and one national summit to develop and train a nationally representative group of African American churches within which to complete patient-centered outcomes research and collaborative projects to improve advance care planning and palliative care among parishioners.

Johns Hopkins University - Discovery (Aslakson & Bowie) 8/1/2016-12/31/2017

UNITED in Faith, Health, and Strength: pioneering faith-centered, community-based advance care planning within African American churches

The overall goal of this project is to complete foundational qualitative work about parishioner attitudes and practices related to advance care planning, palliative care, and end-of-life care.

Technical Brief (Aslakson & Dy)

1/20/16-8/22/16

AHRQ

Assessment Tools for Palliative Care

The overall goal of this project was to summarize the various assessment tools for palliative care that can be used for clinical trials, clinical care, and quality measurement.

K08 (Aslakson)

7/01/13-06/30/16

AHRQ

EqUIP: developing a patient-centered outcome for ICU-based palliative care

The overall goal of this project was to develop a metric to evaluate patient and family-centered quality care and palliative care within the ICU. Project currently deferred while RA working on PCORI. Grant awarded but declined in favor of PCORI award.

Role: PI

Mentor: Peter Pronovost

3186.01 (Pronovost)

10/1/13-12/31/15

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

ICU/Acute Care Multi-site Demonstration Project

The overall goal of this project was to achieve significant improvements in processes and outcomes of quality, safety, and cost with engagement of patients and families in ICU settings through a novel systems approach.

Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) (Aslakson) 07/01/11-06/30/13

Mentored Research Training Grant –

Developing a palliative care intervention for surgical intensive care unit patients

Mentor: PJ Pronovost

National Palliative Care Research Center (Aslakson)

1/14/12-01/13/14

Junior Faculty Career Development Award

Developing a palliative care intervention for surgical intensive care unit patients

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (Bass & Dy)

11/01/10-06/01/12

Closing the Quality Gap – End-of-Life Care

The overall goal was to complete a large systematic review of the efficacy of quality improvement interventions in populations of dying and seriously ill patients

T32 (Gottshalk)

09/01/2008-8/31/2010

Department of Anesthesiology

The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Research fellowship