**Department of Psychiatry**

**Mental Health Informatics and Analytics (MHIA) Core**

**Informatics and Data Analytics Joint Office Hours**

**Time:**  1-3 PM each Friday, or by appointment for other time slots.

**Location:** Zoom as of now until further notice

**Faculty members:** Dr. Xiaoming Zeng (xiaoming\_zeng@med.unc.edu)

 Professor

Dr. Kai Xia (kai\_xia@med.unc.edu)

 Associate Professor

**Schedule an appointment** at <https://calendly.com/xiaomingzeng/office-hour?month=2020-09> or email the faculty directly.

The **Mental Health Informatics and Analytics (MHIA)** core is excited to announce a new in-house consulting service -- the **informatics and data analytics joint office hours** available to the department. The goal of the consulting service is to support users -- researchers, clinicians, or trainees – who plan to or are conducting data-driven research or evaluation projects, especially those needing observational data from clinical databases such as EHRs, claims, and other secondary datasets.

Large quantities of observational data are routinely collected to support health care operations and service delivery. These real-world data contain rich information about patients that can be used for research and evaluation to build new knowledge and gain insights. One challenge hindering the wide use of such data is the needed but often convoluted process of identifying, transforming and preparing data. The combined office hours, as a one stop shop, aim to support users in the Department of Psychiatry for their research or evaluation projects by streamlining the process from data acquisition to analysis and interpretation.

The two host faculty members, in combination, have more than 30-year of experience in health informatics, bioinformatics, biostatistics, and data analytics. During the consulting, they will discuss with users their data needs and help operationalize research questions or ideas so that relevant data sources could be identified. They will work closely with NC TraCS and other data and informatics entities to query and extract data from existing data management systems. They will also assist the steps of data cleaning, exploratory data analysis, and statistical analysis. Further help with grant proposal, IRB and SRC regarding study design, write-up and budget justification will also be provided.

The office hours will be on each Friday from 1-3 with four 30-minute time slots. Please use the link above to schedule a meeting with the faculty members. If you need a different time slot or have a question about the service, please contact the faculty members directly.