ROCC Newsletter June 2013

Upcoming Webinar Offerings

Save the Date!

Data Sharing for Research

Tuesday, July 16, 2013, 1:00 PM ET

Please join ROCC for a webinar featuring Deven McGraw, Director of the Health Privacy Project at the Center for Democracy and Technology. Ms. McGraw will discuss data sharing for research with regard to HIPAA rules and regulations. She has been at the forefront of promotional efforts to encourage adoption of health information technology (HIT) and information exchange to improve health care. Kathleen Sebelius, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) appointed her to serve on the HIT Policy Committee, a federal advisory committee created in 2009. Registration for this free webinar will be posted shortly on the ROCC website.

The AAMC Research Evaluation Project - RAND Report Release

Monday, July 8, 2013, 10-11AM EDT

Register: http://tinyurl.com/Evaluation-AAMC

Learn about new evaluation tools to assess research programs, including an expanded array of metrics to help evaluate emerging areas of research. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is supporting the development of research evaluation tools and frameworks that will serve as resources to medical schools, teaching hospitals, and their faculty as they strive to respond to the calls for public accountability for biomedical research investments. This webinar will discuss a new report (available in early July) from RAND Europe, “Measuring Research: A Guide to Research Evaluation Frameworks and Tools.” The report was commissioned by the AAMC. The webinar also will discuss AAMC’s formation of two expert panels of key research leaders and knowledgeable stakeholders to consider how evaluation tools can be tailored to work within a variety of institutional structures, research missions and disciplines. Ann Bonham, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer at the AAMC will moderate and present. Joining Dr. Bonham are Jonathan Grant, Ph.D., Principal Research Fellow and Steve Wooding, Ph.D., Research Leader, both from RAND Europe.

Of Interest

Research Clinician Partnerships

At a recent AAMC meeting, Lee F. Fetter, BJC Group President at BJC Healthcare, provided powerful insights relating to the value of research for teaching hospitals.

- Increasingly, teaching hospitals are subject to IRS oversight related to section 501(r) associated with the PPACA. This requires demonstrated evidence of public benefit commonly “The advancement of education or science” per the IRS.
Clinical trials directly result in new patients receiving and continuing care at teaching hospitals. Basic and other research attracts patients in three ways: 1) referrals from physicians to investigators whose research findings are nationally known; 2) contributes perception that the hospitals is a place to receive cutting edge care; and 3) hospitals with well known researchers attract non-local patients seeking expert care for specific conditions.

- Research has costs and does not generate a surplus unless there is a rare instance of intellectual property to be commercialized;
- Clinician protected time for research can impact continuity of care particularly in smaller departments;
- In spite of the research subsidy, a robust research program generates a positive public image for referring physicians and the public;
- Research lures stellar young investigators, creating a talent pool that reduces overall recruitment costs; and
- Research programs attract philanthropic dollars.

Slides are available for download on the AAMC Meetings site[^link to slides].

**Patient’s Responsibility to Participate in Decision Making and Research**

In JAMA, Drs. Mary Tinetti and Ethan Basch examine patient participation in research and their own clinical care, profiling the range of preferences among patients. The authors review the importance of two-way communication with patients to ensure that researchers understand outcomes valuable to patients, and the responsibility of patients to ensure their perspective is heard.

**Best Practices Show Rapid Results**

At Berkshire Medical Center, Timothy Counihan MD and colleagues saw a rapid drop in patient complications only one week after implementing evidence based colectomy protocol. Using an evidence based clinical support system, the multidisciplinary clinical team reviewed its practices and developed a new evidence based protocol to replace previous practices, and measured its success after implementation.

**Meeting Meaningful Use Criteria and Managing Patient Populations: A National Survey of Practicing Physicians**

In the recent *Annals of Internal Medicine*, DesRoches and colleagues at Mathematica released a study on the characteristics of electronic health record (EHR) use by primary care and specialist physicians, finding that while overall use is increasing, few physicians are taking advantage of more advanced features that allow for external data exchange, generation of quality metrics or providing patient summaries.

**CER and Patient Outcomes**

Julie Bird reports on the blog *Fierce Healthcare* that Kaiser Permanente has learned as a system that attention to comparative effectiveness research can improve outcomes for patients, and benefit the health system at the same time.
Black Patients More Likely Than Whites to Undergo Surgery At Low-Quality Hospitals in Segregated Regions

Ashish Jha, writing on the Health Affairs blog profiles the recently published study by Jason Dimick, who sought to understand patterns of hospital use by African Americans, and the consequences on their quality of care and suggests corrective action be taken by both physicians and hospitals to mitigate the harm and improve quality for their patients.

Accord Aims to Create Trove of Genetic Data (NYT)

Earlier this month, Gina Kolata reported in the New York Times on the accord created among research and advocacy organizations worldwide, to share genetic data and clinical information in an organized fashion. The database initiative aims to collect and store data on genetic variations and health, with the consent of study participants.

AAMC and BMJ Collaborative

The AAMC and British Medical Journal (BMJ) recently announced a collaboration to create innovative online learning resources to support clinical teams and health systems in their transition to new payment models. More information can be found on the BMJ website.

PCORI Challenge

PCORI announced winners of the PCORI Challenge at the Health Datapalooza event held earlier this month in Washington DC. The competition challenged applicants to connect patients and researchers in innovative ways to advance patient-centered CER. Winners were WellSpringboard, a web-based crowdsourcing platform, and ACTONNET, a web-based search engine and interface. Details can be found on PCORI’s newsroom webpage.

Funding Opportunities

PCORI

National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network Coordinating Center RFP

Proposals due: July 31, 2013

PCORI has issued a request for proposal targeting coordination activities for their recently announced Clinical Data Driven Research Network (CDRN) and the Patient Powered Research Network (PPRN) initiatives. The Coordinating Center is intended to provide logistical and technical support for the two research networks that constitute the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network (NCRN).

More information is available on the PCORI website.
PCORI

Patient Engagement Awards

PCORI recently announced its Patient Engagement Awards Program, investing up to $1.2 million in targeted funding to patients, clinicians and primary caregivers. The program’s goal is to build research capacity and begins with a series of $15,000 awards targeting patient and other non-research groups build their capacity to participate in research alongside clinicians and researchers. Pipeline to Proposal Awards are the first set of awards in the series, and will commence when an intermediate funding management organization is identified.

PCORI Health Disparities PFA

LOI due August 1, 2013
Proposals due September 18, 2013

Under the Addressing Disparities Program at PCORI, a new funding announcement targets comparative effectiveness (CER) focused on reducing adverse outcomes due to poorly controlled asthma in African-American and Hispanic/Latino individuals, populations, and subgroups.

AHRQ

Rapid Secondary Analysis to Optimize Care for Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions (R01)

LOI due: July 19, 2013
Proposals due: August 28, 2013

This RFP calls for new proposals on the topic of multiple chronic disease management (MCC). The grant provides funding for secondary data analysis using large data sets to provide rapid and relevant clinical information on best practices in caring for patients with MCC. More information is available on Grants.Gov.

Robert Wood Johnson

Public Health Services and Systems Research: Mentored Research Scientist Development Awards

Proposals due: August 21, 2013, 3:00 PM ET

This career development award is intended to prepare researchers to conduct public health services and systems research (PHSSR) to contribute to evidence base expansion for effective decision making in public health practice and policy.

More information is available on the RWJ website
Health Care Innovation Awards Round Two

LOI due: June 28, 2013
Proposals due: August 15, 2013

This funding mechanism targets new payment and service delivery models for Medicare, Medicaid and Children’s Health Enrollees (CHIP). Successful applicants will implement the proposed models at the beginning of the three year cycle, and deliver a fully developed new payment and delivery model at the end of the funding cycle.

More information is available at Grants.Gov

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation

Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award

Proposals due: July 1, 2013

This award provides support for ‘high-risk/high reward’ innovations in the treatment of cancer. Targeted to early career researchers, the award enables researchers who may lack sufficient preliminary data to develop a new, innovative idea in cancer prevention, diagnosis or treatment.

More information is available on the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation website

Upcoming Meetings

PCORI

Rigor and Relevance: Using the PCORI Methodology Standards

Date
June 25, 2013
2:00 p.m. (ET) – 6:00 p.m. (ET)

Location
Baltimore, MD

Held in conjunction with the 30th Annual Research Meeting (ARM), AcademyHealth will convene the 2013 PCOR Methods Mini-Course: Rigor and Relevance: Using the PCORI Methodology Standards. This interactive workshop will be based on the PCORI Methodology Standards, and will focus on ways researchers in a variety of environments, such as academia and industry, may best utilize the methodological standards provided in the report to improve the relevance, rigor, feasibility and consistency of PCOR studies. AcademyHealth will host the event in partnership with the Center for
Medical Technology Policy (CMTP) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

**Registration**
Registration is required. The mini-course is free and open to the public. All registration is processed through the main ARM registration site.

IOM

**Roundtable on Population Health Improvement**
September 19, 2013 - September 20, 2013 (8:00 AM Eastern)
This roundtable is the third in a series of meetings on improving population health. Attendance is in-person or via web-cast. More information is available on the IOM website.

**Bright spots in research / health care integration examples**
We would appreciate your input on your research and collaborative activities which we should highlight in an upcoming newsletter. Please email us at rocc@aamc.org with a brief description or link which describes your collaborative research activities focused in informatics, quality improvement and health equity research, or other areas.

Please join the recently established Research on Care Community interest group on Linked In.