

# **HCSRN 2022 Winter Newsletter**

Read below to hear about upcoming events, exciting announcements, and upcoming opportunities happening at the HCSRN!

Visit our Website



Promoting Collaboration and Partnerships to Advance Health Equity

We understand there is a lot of uncertainty around this time, but HCSRN is here to reassure you that we are excited to be hosting our first in-person conference in 2 years! Our team is working to create a safe and health-conscious environment for everyone who attends.



# **Opening Plenary Session**

Theme: Promoting Collaboration and Partnerships to Advance Health Equity

Are You Really Ready to Do the Work? Shifting the Research Paradigm through Meaningful and Equitable Collaborations



Lori Carter-Edwards, PhD, MPH



Pastor James D. Gailliard

### **Overview**

Inequities in health and healthcare extend to the manner in which we conduct research. While there is an emergence in collaborative research, and more team science performed to gain an understanding of the complex drivers and determinants of health in communities of greatest impact, there is still a dearth of participatory research authentically involving patients and communities throughout the entire research continuum. As such, meaningful, equitable, collaborative research is sorely needed to more adequately address the contextual factors that can help shape more effective research and research opportunities. Methods need to include an engaged approach with the communities served, not only to identify challenges and barriers to health and health care, but also the assets that communities can bring to the research enterprise. Often this requires time building relationships and capacity for co-designed and authentically collaborative research – from conceptualization and design to implementation, to analysis, and translation and dissemination, including deliver through presentation.

We will share our relationship-building journey that led to our community-engaged implementation science pilot study on COVID-19 risk communication strategies and demonstrate through our presentation format as well as the information we will share that a shift in the collaborative research paradigm is possible. Our call to action will focus on equitable collaborations in research readiness with community partners.

### NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory Pre Conference Workshop

Essentials of Embedded Pragmatic Clinical Trials Workshop April 11, 2022 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

### Program Description:

This workshop introduces concepts in the design, conduct, and implementation of embedded pragmatic clinical trials (ePCTs), with a particular focus on methods relevant to health services researchers. ePCTs are randomized trials conducted within health care systems and use streamlined procedures and existing infrastructure to answer important medical questions for patients, providers, and health system leaders. Such trials have the potential to inform policy and practice with broadly generalizable, high-quality evidence at lower cost and greater efficiency compared with traditional explanatory clinical trials. The workshop will provide an introduction to the investigative opportunities for embedded health systems research, along with strategies for conducting clinical trials that provide real-world evidence necessary to inform both practice and policy. Firsthand ePCT experiences and case studies from the NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory Demonstration Projects will support and illustrate the topics presented.

### Learning Objectives

- 1. To clarify the definition of ePCTs and explain their utility.
- 2. To introduce attendees to the unique characteristics and challenges of designing,
- conducting, and implementing ePCTs within diverse health care systems. 3. To increase the capacity of health services researchers to address important clinical

questions with ePCTs.

### **NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory Workshop Agenda**

Essentials of Embedded Pragmatic Clinical Trials Workshop HCSRN Annual Conference – Pasadena CA April 11, 2022 Agenda							
April 11, 2022							
DURATION	TOPIC	SPEAKERS	GOALS				
1:00 – 1:05 p.m.	Welcome	Kevin Weinfurt	Meeting goals and expectations     Introductions				
1:05 – 1:30 p.m. 25 mins	What Are Embedded PCTs (ePCTs)?	Kevin Weinfurt	<ul> <li>Identify key considerations in the design and conduct of ePCTs and how they differ from explanatory trials</li> </ul>				
			<ul> <li>Learn why a critical element in the success of an ePCT is engaging health system partners at all levels and through all phases of the study</li> </ul>				
			<ul> <li>Understand the real-world priorities and perspectives of health system leaders and how to obtain their support</li> </ul>				
			<ul> <li>Identify challenges of partnering across diverse health systems</li> </ul>				
1:30 – 1:45 p.m. 15 mins	Objectives and Trial Design: An Overview of Hybrid Designs	Devon Check	<ul> <li>Overview of the 3 types of effectiveness- implementation hybrid trial designs and when they may be appropriate for ePCTs</li> </ul>				
1:45 – 2:15 p.m. 30 mins	Measuring Outcomes	Devon Check	<ul> <li>Describe methods for measuring outcomes using data sources such as electronic health records (EHRs) and patient-reported outcomes (PROs)</li> </ul>				
2:15 – 2:45 p.m. 30 mins	ePCT Experimental Design & Analysis	Patrick Heagerty	<ul> <li>Learn about cluster-randomized and stepped- wedge study designs</li> </ul>				
			<ul> <li>Recognize the analytical challenges and trade- offs of pragmatic study designs, focusing on what PIs need to know</li> </ul>				
			**Includes Q&A with attendees				
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Break						

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. 30 mins	Pilot & Feasibility Testing	Miguel Vazquez	<ul> <li>Identify why it's important to do a pilot study to maximize acceptability, maintain affordability, and consider scalability of the ePCT intervention</li> </ul>		
			<ul> <li>Learn key approaches to evaluating the capabilities of the partner health system and testing key elements of the intervention</li> </ul>		
3:30 – 3:45 p.m. 15 mins	Ethical & Regulatory Oversight Considerations	Kevin Weinfurt	Learn about the regulatory and ethical challenges of conducting ePCTs		
3:45 – 4:00 p.m. 15 mins	Writing a Compelling Grant Application	Michael Ho	Identify elements of a compelling ePCT application     Tips on NIH matchmaking		
4:00 -4:45 p.m. 45 mins	ePCTs in Context: Panel Discussion	<u>Moderator</u> Kevin Weinfurt <u>Panel</u> Michael Ho Miguel Vazquez Stacy Sterling	Presentation of case studies from three Collaboratory Demonstration Projects: Nudge, ICD-Pieces and GGC4H     *Includes moderated Q&A with attendees		
4:45 – 5:00 p.m. 15 mins	Next Steps	Kevin Weinfurt	Final Q&A     Wrap up, including identifying sources for     further learning.		

### **Ancillary Meetings**

Complex Health Interventions Research Methods Working Groups (closed)	April 11	1:00pm - 5:00pm
Implementing Universal Lynch Syndrome Screening grant annual meeting (closed)	April 11	1:15pm - 4:45pm
HSCRN Sentinel Partners Meeting (open)	April 12	12:15pm - 1:15pm
Patient Engagement in Research Scientific Interest Group (open)	April 12	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Pharmacy Interest Group (open)	April 12	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Aging SIG: Current and Future Collaborative Opportunities (open)	April 12	12:15pm - 1:45pm
MUSE Study All Site Meeting (closed)	April 12	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) Equity SIG (open)	April 12	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation (SONNET) (open)	April 12	12:30pm - 1:30pm
Addiction Research Network/NIDA CTN Health Systems Node (open)	April 13	12:00pm - 1:15pm
VDW Tumor Work Group (open)	April 13	12:15pm - 1:15pm
Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives in Health System- Based Research Programs: A Discussion of Best Practices and Lessons Learned (open)	April 13	5:00pm - 7:00pm
VDW Implementation Group Meeting	April 14	10:00am – 3:00pm *subject to end earlier

### **Recent HCSRN Interest Group Highlights**

#### **IRB Interest Group**

The HCSRN IRB workgroup continues to meet in 2022 and is co-chaired by Paula Tebeau (Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute) and Melissa Goff (Kaiser Permanente Colorado). The group convenes every other month to stay informed and collaborate on IRB Issues related to the HCSRN as well as the industry in general. In 2021 the group initiated discussion and work in the area of equity and inclusion in research and research subjects with limited English proficiency. Some institutions have revised their protocol templates/research study applications to add questions in this area. A survey has been sent out to researchers in the KP regions to assess what guidance or resources are needed by researchers to include participants with limited English proficiency. Results are being compiled and the group is hoping to use the findings to develop these tools/resources in 2022. The HCSRN IRB Workgroup also continues to collaborate and share best practices related to conducting research safely during the COVID 19 pandemic, and the AAHRPP accreditation process. Any questions related to the IRB workgroup or suggestions can be directed to **Melissa Goff** or **Paula Tebeau**.

#### **Pharmacy Interest Group**

HCSRN's Pharmacy Interest Group held its inaugural meeting on February 2nd.

The Pharmacy Interest Group (IG) will bring together HCSRN members and invited nonmembers to explore topics and collaborative opportunities related to pharmacy services and the continuum of the medication use process from discovery to final disposition. Interest areas of the Pharmacy IG include:

- Pharmacy service implementation and evaluation
- Economic, clinical, and humanistic aspects of medication use
- Medication-related technology implementation and evaluation (e.g., predictive modeling
- for medication non-adherence, clinical decision support, mobile apps, etc.)Health equity and social determinants of health in the medication use process
- Health equity and social determinants of health in the med
   Pharmacogenomics implementation and evaluation
- Implementation science of pharmacy interoperability/structured information
- exchange (e.g., Improving communication through enhanced interoperability to the health care community, including pharmacists and community-based care providers, related to medications, adherence, proper use and education for proper use.)

#### **LHS Interest Group**

In December, the AcademyHealth Learning Health System (LHS) Interest Group hosted a webinar to explore critically important ethical, legal, and social issues that can arise in the conduct of LHS embedded research, featuring Dr. Jodyn Platt from the University of Michigan Medical School Department of Learning Health Sciences. As the concept and practices underpinning the LHS continue to mature, understanding unique considerations for embedded research, including informed consent, participant engagement, and establishing trust are essential to the conversation.

Watch the webinar: <u>Navigating Ethical Challenges for Embedded Research in Learning</u> <u>Health Systems</u>

Call for papers from the LHS Journal

Publish Your Predictive Models, Computable Phenotypes, and Algorithms as Peer-Reviewed Computable Knowledge

*Learning Health Systems* welcomes submission of your open-source models, phenotypes, and algorithms for publication as computable artifacts accompanying a written manuscript. The publication policy for "Computable Knowledge" papers is available **here** on the Journal's website. Computable knowledge papers may be submitted at any time.

A more complete range of computable knowledge types that are eligible for publication includes: regression models, algorithms, computable phenotypes and guidelines, workflows, and policies; decision trees; calculators; Bayesian networks; and models derived from machine learning such as neural networks.

We are also delighted that Dr. Günes Koru of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has joined our editorial team as the Journal's Associate Editor for Computable Knowledge. Günes will oversee the review and testing of all submissions.

Submission is a two-step process, as detailed in this **excerpt from the policy**. The first step requires a brief proposal that will be quickly evaluated to be sure the proposed submission is in scope. The second step is the submission of the manuscript itself along with the computable artifact and instructions for testing it.

As an example, the Journal's first Computable Knowledge paper, "Immunization calculation engine: An open source immunization evaluation and forecasting system" by Noam Arzt and colleagues, can be found here.

Please direct any questions to Kathleen Young (kayoung@med.umich.edu). We look forward to receiving your submission.



Want a rewarding job in health research? Check out career opportunities on the HCSRN job board.

We list faculty and staff positions at HCSRN research centers and academic institutions as a service to the research community.

#### Executive Director and Chief, Division of Healthcare Delivery Science (HCDS)

**Worcester, MA:** Meyers Health Care Institute (MHCI) seeks a dynamic leader and accomplished academician to serve as its next Executive Director and Chief, Division of Healthcare Delivery Science (HCDS) at the UMass Chan Medical School (UMCMS). This is an outstanding leadership position for an academic leader with a record of major research, teaching and leadership accomplishments to drive research efforts and contribute to improving the health of patients across the globe.

The Executive Director will be responsible for leading and overseeing the Institute's activities as well as reporting to a Board of Directors representing the three entities. The Executive Director will shape and expand the Institute's research vision, and lead the Institute's faculty and staff in identifying high value, innovative research opportunities consistent with its mission.

The successful candidate will be an outstanding academician with demonstrated ability to set a vision and effectively recruit, inspire and mentor. Candidates must possess qualifications for appointment to the Associate Professor rank or higher at UMCMS. To learn more about this leadership position, provide confidential nominations or to express interest (via an updated CV) please contact the MHCI search consultants Stephen Davis and Vineeth Gossain via vgossain@ wittkieffer.com.

#### Biostatistician

The Division of Research (DOR) of The Permanente Medical Group, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente Northern California, KPNC) seeks to recruit a doctoral level biostatistician at the early or mid-career level (assistant or associate professor equivalent). This position is similar to a faculty position in an academic research institution. Responsibilities include collaboration on multidisciplinary research teams by providing expertise in study design and statistical methods, preparing proposals and manuscripts, and guiding masters level analysts. The position also provides opportunities to lead independent research. The candidate must have: (i) a Ph.D in biostatistics, statistics, or a related field (ii) demonstrated expertise in statistical methods, (iii) demonstrated history of successful collaboration and consultation, (iv) a track record of peer-reviewed scholarly publications, and (iv) excellent oral and written skills. Candidates whose research interests complement the main research areas of the Division are particularly encouraged to apply.

Please email a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Monica Sokil

at Monica.Sokil@kp.org

#### **Cancer Care Delivery Research Scientist**

The Division of Research of The Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser Permanente Northern California) seeks an investigator with a research focus in delivery science related to cancer care. This individual will be expected to develop an independently funded research program, conduct scholarly research that is recognized nationally and internationally, and collaborate with Kaiser Permanente clinicians and leadership in evaluating or developing interventions to enhance the delivery of evidence-based cancer care. The investigator may be appointed at the assistant professor, associate professor, or professor-equivalent level.

This Research Scientist position calls for experience in clinical settings and expertise in evaluating clinical and patient-centered care and outcomes among cancer patients. The investigator is expected to spend the majority of his/her time on research on the effectiveness or implementation of clinical interventions and approaches to health care delivery. The successful candidate is expected to develop their own externally funded research portfolio, collaborate with others in our Delivery Science portfolio, collaborate with physicians and program leaders within Kaiser Permanente, work with other DOR cancer researchers on content and methodologic issues, and develop national and international collaborations to advance research anywhere along the cancer care continuum, from screening to navigation, treatment (including immuno-oncology), survivorship, or palliative and end of life care. Areas of expertise may include, but are not limited to, patient-reported outcomes, digital health, genomic oncology, or cost of care/financial burden.

Please email a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Suzanne Furuya at Suzanne.Furuya@kp.org

### NIH Collaboratory Celebrates 10 Years with New Name, Refreshed Website

The NIH Collaboratory is excited to launch into its tenth year with a new name— NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory—that will carry the highly successful program into the future with a continued commitment to transforming clinical research. The past decade has been a productive and prolific period for the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory. Setting the stage for the future, the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory has redesigned and enhanced the *Living Textbook of Pragmatic Clinical Trials*. Users will find a new look and streamlined navigation for accessing the program's extensive collection of resources.

Read more about this important milestone for the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory.

\*Remember to hard refresh your web browser to make sure you're viewing the latest website version. For instructions on how to hard refresh your web browser,click here.

> NIA IMPACT Collaboratory New Funding Opportunities



#### **IMPACT** Collaboratory announces two funding opportunities

The NIA IMPACT Collaboratory is offering a funding opportunity: <u>Career Development</u> <u>Award</u>. These opportunities support research and training to increase the nation's capacity to conduct pragmatic clinical trials (ePCTs) of non-pharmacological interventions within healthcare systems to improve care for people living with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias(AD/ADRD) and their care partners.

#### **Career Development Award**

The IMPACT Collaboratory funds up to four Career Development Awards (CDAs) annually. These two-year awards support the development of early-stage MD, PhD, or equivalent researchers who seek careers conducting ePCTs for people living with AD/ADRD and their care partners. Each award will provide \$100,000 annually in direct costs with an indirect cost rate capped at 8%.

Applications are due by 5pm ET March 18, 2022.

## **Call for Proposals to Participate in PCORI's HSII**

PCORI is releasing a Call for Proposals to Participate in their Health Systems Implementation Initiative (HSII).

Through HSII, participating healthcare delivery systems and provider-affiliated health plans will be



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able to receive funding directly to undertake implementation projects promoting the uptake of evidence from PCORI-funded research within their care delivery settings. The first step for healthcare delivery systems and provider-affiliated health plans is to apply to become an HSII Participant.

The Call for Proposals to Participate in HSII will post on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, on PCORI's HSII web page.

Please stay tuned for another announcement from PCORI when the Call for Proposals is released on February 15.



https://www.hcsrn.org/en/

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