



## Advisory Panel on Addressing Disparities

### September 11, 2013 Meeting Summary

September 27, 2013

## Overview

On September 11, 2013, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute's (PCORI) Addressing Disparities (AD) program convened its second Advisory Panel meeting via Web conference. Patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, providers, payers, and purchasers are represented on the Advisory Panel.

The program staff provided an update on the activities of the AD program, including progress [on the ranked topics](#)<sup>1</sup> identified at the previous Advisory Panel meeting held in April 2013. Advisory Panel members also identified additional high priority areas for future research.

## Background

Addressing disparities is one of PCORI's five [national research priorities](#).<sup>2</sup> The Addressing Disparities program aims to reduce disparities in healthcare outcomes and advance equity in health and health care. The program focuses on funding studies that will identify best options for eliminating health and healthcare disparities in populations at risk for experiencing them.

The Advisory Panel helps to identify and prioritize critical research questions for possible funding and provides ongoing feedback and advice on evaluating and disseminating the research conducted under PCORI's Addressing Disparities priority. Specifically, the Advisory Panel is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Identify and prioritize health and healthcare disparities research topics;
- Review and comment periodically on PCORI's research portfolio, including the identification of gaps in the portfolio, and the overall impact of the portfolio;
- Provide input on possible refinements to PCORI's research priorities;
- Provide feedback to PCORI on specific research questions and study designs;
- Consider study findings and make recommendations on evidence-based approaches for dissemination of study findings; and

<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://pcori.org/get-involved/addressing-disparities-research-topics>

<sup>2</sup> Available at [pcori.org/assets/PCORI-National-Priorities-and-Research-Agenda-2012-05-21-FINAL.pdf](http://pcori.org/assets/PCORI-National-Priorities-and-Research-Agenda-2012-05-21-FINAL.pdf)

- Improve communication methods/language to promote patient engagement in PCORI health and health disparities research.

A list of Advisory Panel members and their [biographies](#)<sup>3</sup> are available on the PCORI website. The Advisory Panel met from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm (ET) on September 11, 2013 via Web conference. [See here for the archived Webcast.](#)<sup>4</sup>

## Meeting Summary

The Addressing Disparities Program Director, Romana Hasnain-Wynia, opened the meeting with an overview of the goals and activities of the AD program and a description of the conceptual framework being designed by program staff, as well as the effort underway to classify PCORI-funded projects. Dr. Hasnain-Wynia provided an update on the program's progress on the ranked topics identified during the last Advisory Panel meeting in April 2013. Senior Program Associate Ayodola Anise provided an update on the targeted funding announcement for "Treatment Options for African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos with Uncontrolled Asthma." Program Associate Cathy Gurgol gave an update on PCORI's Obesity Workgroup and the development of a funding announcement in this area. Advisory Panel members and co-chairs, Doriane Miller and Grant Jones, moderated the discussion about potential topics for future research. Dr. Hasnain-Wynia closed the meeting with a discussion of next steps.

## Overview and Updates from PCORI

The Addressing Disparities program's long-term goal is to develop the evidence base that translates to improved health outcomes for populations at risk for experiencing disparities. This goal ultimately relates to PCORI's overall goal of providing information that is useful to patients and other stakeholders in making healthcare-related decisions.

In support of this goal, the AD program seeks to create a dynamic framework with core components, some of which will be derived from previously vetted and accepted frameworks for reducing disparities, incorporating PCORI criteria for funding comparative effective research (CER) to help guide program work, ground the program, and actively manage the AD portfolio. This framework will identify key components and domains that will become part of a classification system for currently funded projects. The goal is to then map these projects to the conceptual framework. Currently, projects are classified under five categories: disparities focus (across **all** PCORI-funded projects), shared decision-making, age, region, and condition, but this is a dynamic process and categories will continue to grow and evolve.

### Update: Topics Ranked by the Advisory Panel in April 2013

<i>Compare the effectiveness of clinician/patient health</i>	PCORI has contracted with America's Essential
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<sup>3</sup> Available at <http://pcori.org/get-involved/pcori-advisory-panels/advisory-panel-on-addressing-disparities/advisory-panel-on-addressing-disparities-biographies/>

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://pcori.org/events/advisory-panel-on-addressing-disparities/?type=past>

<p><i>communication models on improving outcomes in minority populations, patients with low literacy and numeracy, people with limited English proficiency, underserved populations, and people with disabilities.</i></p>	<p>Hospitals to conduct a landscape review focusing on safety net settings and new delivery models (e.g., ACOs and PCMHs) to identify communication barriers and facilitators in chronic disease management. In addition to reviewing the literature on this subject, the contractor will also be conducting key informant interviews with patients and clinicians in safety net settings. The report is due in December, and will be shared with Advisory Panel members and posted on the PCORI website.</p>
<p><i>Compare the effectiveness of different delivery models (e.g., home blood pressure monitors, utilization of pharmacists or other allied health providers) for controlling hypertension in racial minorities.</i></p>	<p>Working with the MillionHearts® (MH) initiative, we have been exploring and vetting topics. A workgroup is scheduled for October 18, 2013. The workgroup will consist of researchers, patients, clinicians, and other stakeholders and it will be telecast and open to the public.</p>
<p><i>Compare the effectiveness of health interventions (including place-based interventions in community health centers [CHCs]) to enhance the MillionHearts® program and reduce major vascular events among the economically disadvantaged, including racial and ethnic minorities and rural populations.</i></p>	<p>PCORI has contracted with RTI to conduct a landscape review, which will be completed December 2013. The landscape review will focus on highlighting interventions to reduce cardiovascular events in populations at risk for experiencing disparities and will identify evidence gaps. The review will be shared with Advisory Panel members and will be posted on the PCORI website.</p>
<p><i>Compare the effectiveness of multilevel interventions (e.g., community-based, health education, usual care) on reducing disparities in perinatal outcomes.</i></p>	<p>AD program staff has conducted an initial literature review and explored initiatives being undertaken by the Center for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Innovation in this area. A workgroup is scheduled for October 24, 2013 in partnership with the Improving Health Systems program (one of PCORI's five national priorities). The Improving Health Systems Advisory Panel also identified improving perinatal outcomes as one of its high priority topics. The goal of the workgroup is to identify more specific high priority questions in this area. The workgroup will be telecast and open to the public.</p>
<p><i>Compare the effectiveness of interventions on reducing disparities in lower extremity amputations in racial and ethnic minorities.</i></p>	<p>AD program staff have conducted a preliminary literature review. The program will start rigorous topic refinement activities in January 2014.</p>

#### **Program Update: Treatment Options for African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos with Uncontrolled Asthma**

This targeted funding announcement focuses on reducing adverse outcomes due to poorly controlled asthma in African-American and/or Hispanic/Latino individuals, populations, and subgroups by: comparing interventions to improve clinician and patient adherence to NHLBI guidelines; incorporating

interventions at the community, home, and health system levels and that assess combinations of patient-education tools, home-environment interventions, asthma medications, and team-based approaches; and including patient-centered outcomes tailored to the needs of specific individuals and populations.

The funding announcement was released on June 18, 2013. An Applicant Town Hall was held on July 9, 2013, with over 125 participants. The letter of intent deadline was August 1, 2013, and 108 letters were submitted. The final deadline for applications is Wednesday, September 18, 2013, with up to \$17 million in funds available. The awards will be announced in December 2013.

#### **Program Update: Obesity Workgroup**

On April 16, 2013, PCORI held an ad hoc workgroup to identify existing knowledge gaps. The workgroup comprised researchers, patients, clinicians, and other stakeholders. The workgroup identified 10 high priority questions under four broad themes: communication, integration of care, effectiveness of treatment options, and behavior. Program staff then performed a targeted literature synthesis and gap analysis. PCORI appointed a four-member task force comprising external experts to further narrow the topic.

### **Future Topics for Research Submitted by Advisory Panel Members**

The Advisory Panel submitted the following topics for further consideration.

<b>Mental Health</b>	
<b>Topic for discussion</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
Innovative outreach/education to increase utilization of Mental Health Services among minority groups.	Chien-Chi Huang
Mental and behavioral health for racially diverse adolescents.	Alfiee Breland-Noble
Models for improving patient engagement for youth mental health.	Alfiee Breland-Noble
Family engagement in youth mental health treatment uptake.	Alfiee Breland-Noble
Mental health disparities for racial disparity groups (across the socioeconomic spectrum).	Alfiee Breland-Noble
Integration of mental health services into CHCs.	Doriane Miller

Panelists agreed that addressing mental and behavioral health services for populations at risk for disparities is an important topic for the program to pursue. Panel members emphasized that for many groups, the disparities may not be in disease prevalence, but in accessing care. Panelists endorsed the topics listed above and also suggested the need for studies on mental and behavioral health treatment within systems of care such as foster care and detention facilities, as well as in rural areas.

The panel also agreed that there is a need for studies about the integration of mental health services into CHCs and other primary care settings, and also stressed that all behavioral health services, including substance abuse treatments, should be included. This topic is particularly salient in the current healthcare environment, as many people will begin to receive care at community health centers under the Affordable Care Act.

<b>Disability</b>	
<b>Topic for discussion</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
Pediatric-to-adult transition for youth with disabilities.	Mary Ann Sander
Developing hearing apps for testing and amplification. There is a huge gap between those who have hearing loss and those who use hearing aids.	Mary Ann Sander
Providing effective communication for people with disabilities in healthcare settings (could include literacy level, cognitive abilities as well as sensory abilities).	Mary Ann Sander

Panelists supported broadening the proposed topic “pediatric to adult transition for youth with disabilities” to address access to care for individuals with disabilities, in general. Panelists stated that individuals with disabilities experience poorer quality of care, have difficulty accessing care, and experience worse health outcomes and that these issues are not limited to the transition period only.

<b>Other Topics</b>	
<b>Topic for discussion</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
The effectiveness of peer support in increasing cancer survivorship among linguistically isolated populations.	Chien-Chi Huang
Interventions for addressing tobacco use in populations with known tobacco disparities.	Tammy Burns
Effective replication of CER for addressing health disparities in rural populations.	Martin Gould
Sleep disparities among Latinos and African Americans due to lack of access to primary care, and environmental factors.	Martina Gallagher
Interventions around health literacy.	Deborah

	Stewart
Developing effective ways to preserve brain health and function of the “young old” (60+) as a means of having a healthy and productive aging process.	Mary Ann Sander

Panelists agreed that CER addressing tobacco use in populations with known tobacco disparities should be a high priority for the AD program. Many panelists indicated that it was important to note that this subject intersected well with several of the ranked topics from the Advisory Panel’s April meeting, including those topics focused on cardiovascular disease and perinatal outcomes. Panelists supported a topic focused on sleep disparities in African-American and Latino populations.

The Panel also endorsed broad areas of interest such as exploring CER for addressing health disparities in rural populations and health literacy.

## Next Steps for PCORI

The next meeting of the Advisory Panel will be an in-person meeting in January 2014. Dates will be confirmed in the upcoming weeks. Advisory Panel members will receive topic briefs for prioritization before the in-person meeting. PCORI program staff will continue providing updates on the work that is underway and funding announcements that are under development.