



How Does PCORI Choose What to Fund?

Chad Boult, MD, MPH, MBA

Director, Improving Healthcare Systems Program

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Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

What Is PCORI Looking For?

PCORI supports high-quality research

- that produces trusted information
- that will improve health care and outcomes
- that patients and their families care about

Which Outcomes Do Patients Care About?

Examples:

- Health
- Relief from symptoms
- Health-related quality of life
- Function (ability to do what they want to do)
- Safety from medical harm
- Survival

How Does PCORI Select the Most Promising Research Proposals to Support?



Two Parallel Solicitation Processes

- Stakeholder-initiated (“targeted”) funding announcements
 - Specific questions suggested by patients, clinicians, and other stakeholders
 - PCORI solicits applications to answer to these questions
- Investigator-initiated (“broad”) funding announcements
 - Broad topic areas announced every six months
 - PCORI solicits applications to answer questions posed by investigators

PCORI's Scientific Programs

- Clinical Effectiveness Research (CE)
- Improving Healthcare systems (IHS)
- Addressing Disparities (AD)
- CER Methods and Infrastructure (MI)
- Communication and Dissemination Research (CD)

Stakeholder-initiated (“Targeted”) Funding Announcements

How we get from stakeholders’ questions to funded research projects

Cast a Wide Net

- Topics submitted through PCORI's website
www.pcori.org/questions
- Topics posed at PCORI-sponsored workshops
- Topics identified by IOM, NIH, AHRQ, AHIP and other organizations and associations
- Topics submitted by PCORI staff members

Screen the Catch

To remove certain questions

- About cost-effectiveness
- That are not patient-centered
- That do not compare two or more approaches
- That have already been answered, or are in the process of being answered

Each Program Selects 10–20 Questions

Criteria

1. The question addresses a problem that puts a large burden on society, or on a subset of it
2. The question focuses on a patient-centered topic and outcome
3. Answers to the question are likely to improve healthcare practices and patient-centered outcomes
4. Answers to the question could be obtained within a few years



Advisory Panels Prioritize the Top 10–20 Questions

Advisory panels (21 people) include patients, caregivers, other stakeholders, and researchers.

- Before meeting, panelists receive a “topic brief” to provide background information on each of the questions to be prioritized.
- Panelists meet in person, using discussion and software, to prioritize the top questions for possible funding announcements in the future.
- Meetings are webcast to the public and archived.



Criteria for Prioritizing Questions

1. The burden that the problem puts on society
2. The patient-centeredness of the question
3. The need for new information about benefits and harms to choose between alternative interventions
4. The likelihood that answers to the question would be implemented in practice
5. The durability of the answer(s) to the question

Targeted Funding Announcements

- Following approval by PCORI's board, PCORI staff members write and release solicitations (PFAs) for applications for contracts to conduct research to answer the highest-priority questions
- Merit review of submitted applications
 - By scientists, patients, caregivers, and other stakeholders

PCORI Review Criteria

- Impact on the health of individuals and populations
- Potential to improve healthcare and outcomes
- Technical merit
- Patient-centeredness
- Patient and stakeholder engagement

First Targeted Funding Announcements

1. The first “targeted” funding announcements were released this past summer
 - Treatment Options for African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos with Uncontrolled Asthma
 - Preventing Serious Injuries from Falls in the Elderly
2. The second set will be released in 2014.

Investigator-Generated (“Broad”) Funding Announcements

Figure 1: Traditional Process

Investigator-Generated Research Just One Part of the Process

PCORI issues broad funding announcements

Researchers partner with stakeholders to generate questions

Researchers, stakeholders apply review criteria
in their applications

Peer review prioritizes
applications by level
of alignment
with criteria

Diverse Research Portfolio answering key questions
for patients and clinicians

PCORI's Current Portfolio

- The current cycle opened September 16, applications are due January 21, awards will be made in May 2014.
- The next cycle will open in February 2014, applications will be due in May 2014.
- Overall, PCORI:
 - Has approved 197 awards totaling \$303 million through broad PCORI funding announcements (PFAs).
 - Will award more than \$400 million in 2013 and upwards of \$500 million in 2014 and 2015.

Get Involved

Patients, other stakeholders, and researchers can participate in PCORI's internal processes through pcori.org/get-involved:

- Submit questions for possible future PFAs.
- Apply to be a member of an advisory panel.
- Apply to be a member of a merit review panel.

Investigators can apply for funding at pcori.org/funding-opportunities/funding-center.

