

Advisory Panel on Addressing Disparities Meeting Summary

June 2014

Overview

On April 28, 2014, the PCORI Advisory Panel on Addressing Disparities (AD) met in Alexandria, Virginia. The panel was joined by AD program staff. The meeting was open to the public via teleconference, and meeting materials were posted to the website in advance.

The panel, which includes patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, providers, payers, and purchasers, provided input on program activities; discussed progress on previously prioritized topics; prioritized research topics using PCORI's research criteria; and met with the Advisory Panel on Patient Engagement to discuss cross-cutting initiatives regarding portfolio management, patient and stakeholder engagement, and dissemination/implementation activities.

The panel discussed four topics that it had previously identified as research gaps. The panelists assigned the following priority order:

1. Interventions to reduce initiation of use of tobacco and promote tobacco cessation among high-risk and vulnerable populations
2. Improving the continuum of care for patients with disabilities
3. Quality of care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations
4. Interventions to reduce disparities in the efficacy of treatments for sleep disorders

Related Information

- [About This Advisory Panel](#)
- [Advisory Panel January 2014 Meeting](#)
- [Orientation to PCORI's Research Prioritization](#)
- [Addressing Health Disparities Topic Briefs](#)
- [Addressing Disparities Program Presentation](#)

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is an independent organization created to help people make informed healthcare decisions.

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Report on Program Activities

AD program staff provided an overview of its current research portfolio, upcoming funding awards, and potential funding announcements in development.

Research Portfolio. Across four cycles of broad PCORI funding announcements (PFAs), the AD program has awarded a total of \$52.8 million for 31 projects. About two-thirds of the portfolio includes research projects that address chronic conditions, behavioral and mental health, and cancer. In addition, the AD program funded eight projects totaling \$23.2 million through PCORI's first topic-specific PFA, which focuses on treatment options for African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos with uncontrolled asthma.

Upcoming Funding Awards. In February 2014, the AD program released a targeted PFA soliciting proposals for obesity treatment options in primary care, specifically calling for pragmatic clinical trials that focus on improving obesity outcomes in racial and ethnic minorities, low socioeconomic status populations, and/or rural communities. The AD program expects to fund up to two trials for a total of \$20 million. The program has two upcoming broad funding announcements, with awards expected in June and September 2014. Finally, in PCORI's first funding announcement soliciting proposals for pragmatic clinical trials, the AD program included two topics previously prioritized by the Advisory Panel on Addressing Disparities:

- Reduction of cardiovascular disease risk in underserved populations
- Integration of mental behavioral health into primary care of persons at risk for disparities in care and outcomes

Funding Announcements in Development. AD program is moving forward with three research topics prioritized in January 2013.

Program staff are in the process of obtaining approval from the Board of Governors for the development of PFAs for two topics for which they are collaborating with national partners, including several institutes at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Reducing disparities in hypertension: Following a multi-stakeholder workgroup held in December 2013 in conjunction with Million Hearts, program staff are working with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on a potential announcement to be released later this year. The AD program plans to work with Million Hearts and CDC to disseminate the study findings.
- Reducing disparities in perinatal care and outcomes: The AD and Improving Healthcare Systems programs are developing a potential funding to be released later this year. The programs are collaborating with the National Institute for Child and Human Development and the National Institute of Nursing Research.

After completing an initial gap analysis on lower extremity amputations among minorities, the AD program staff plans to convene a multi-stakeholder workgroup in Fall 2014 to help distill key topics where evidence gaps currently exist.

Research Prioritization

Since its inaugural meeting in April 2013, the panel has conducted two rounds of research prioritization, identifying a total of 10 top research priorities (see Appendix 1) for AD program staff to consider for potential funding announcements. At this meeting, the panel prioritized the topics according to PCORI's review criteria. The topics are listed below in order of priority.

Rank	Title	Topic
1	Interventions to reduce initiation of use of tobacco and promote tobacco cessation	Compare the effectiveness of clinical interventions to reduce initiation of use of tobacco and promote tobacco cessation among populations with known tobacco disparities, including high-risk and vulnerable populations.
2	Improving the continuum of care for patients with disabilities	Compare the effectiveness of interventions to improve continuum of care for community-dwelling, nonelderly adults with disabilities, including access to care, care coordination, and quality of care.
3	Quality of care for LGBT populations	Examine studies addressing quality of care for LGBT populations, with attention to patient-centered measures of quality, including access to care, physician-patient communication, welcoming clinical environment and knowledgeable clinical care to meet the specific health needs of LGBT individuals.
4	Interventions to reduce disparities in the efficacy of treatments for sleep disorders	Compare the effectiveness of clinical interventions to reduce sleep disorder disparities among racial and ethnic minorities.

Joint Meeting with the Advisory Panel on Patient Engagement

PCORI staff shared updates on their respective programs and discussed cross-cutting initiatives around engagement in research, and dissemination and implementation activities. This was the first joint meeting between two advisory panels. (See [summary](#) of this meeting.)

Next Steps

After addressing the top five topics prioritized in April 2013, AD program staff will begin to address the topics prioritized at the January 2014 meeting (see Appendix) and this meeting. Program staff will consider the prioritized topics for potential targeted funding announcements, future pragmatic clinical trials solicitations, and/or as a focus area for broad funding announcements. Program staff will also continue to refine the conceptual framework and taxonomy of the growing AD portfolio to facilitate program analysis and evaluation. The next advisory panel meeting will be held in September 2014 via teleconference.

Appendix: Topics Prioritized at Previous Meetings

April 2013

Rank	Short Title	Topic
1	Health communication models	Compare the effectiveness of clinician-patient health 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.
2	Major vascular events	Compare the effectiveness of health interventions (including place-based interventions in community health centers) to enhance the Million Hearts program and reduce major vascular events among the economically disadvantaged, including racial and ethnic minorities and rural populations.
3	Hypertension in minorities	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.
4	Interventions for improving perinatal outcomes	Compare the effectiveness of multi-level interventions (e.g., community-based, health education, usual care) on reducing disparities in perinatal outcomes.
5	Reduce lower-extremity amputations in minorities	Compare the effectiveness of interventions on reducing disparities in lower-extremity amputations in racial and ethnic minorities.

January 2014

Rank	Short Title	Topic
1	Integration of mental and behavioral health services into primary care settings to address disparities and advance equity	Compare the effectiveness of interventions to integrate mental and behavioral health, including substance abuse treatments, into community health centers and other primary care settings to reduce disparities and advance equity.
2	Care coordination in primary care to address disparities and advance equity	Compare the effectiveness of enhanced care coordination, including multicultural approaches, on improving the healthcare process and outcomes in primary care settings to reduce disparities and advance equity.
3	Improving the continuum of care for individuals 0 to 26 years of age with disabilities	Improve the continuum of care for individuals 0 to 26 years of age with disabilities.
4	Effective communication for people with disabilities	Compare the effectiveness of strategies to improve communication between clinicians and persons with disabilities or their personal representative, including single- or multi-cultural interventions that effectively tailor communication according to intellectual, physical, sensory, or mental abilities.
5	Innovative outreach to enhance utilization of mental health services among underserved youth	Compare the effectiveness of innovative outreach and education efforts to increase uptake of mental health services among underserved youth populations, and/or engagement of underserved youth and caregivers in mental health treatment.