

Board of Governors Meeting via Teleconference/Webinar

January 24, 2017
12:00 - 1:30 pm ET



PATIENT-CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Welcome and Introductions

Grayson Norquist, MD, MSPH

Chairperson, Board of Governors

Joe Selby, MD, MPH

Executive Director



Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
12:00	Call to Order, Roll Call, and Welcome
12:00-12:05	Consider for Approval: Minutes of the January 10, 2017 Board Meeting
12:05-12:50	Consider for Approval: Supporting PCORI Rapid Research and People-centered Communities through Implementation of the FY17 Funding Commitment Plan
12:50-1:20	Consider for Approval: AHRQ/PCORI Learning Health System Training Program
1:20-1:30	Wrap up and Adjournment

Board Vote

Call for a Motion to:

- **Approve** the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Board Meeting

Call for the Motion to Be Seconded:

- **Second** the Motion
 - If further discussion, may propose an **Amendment** to the Motion or an **Alternative Motion**

Voice Vote:

- Vote to **Approve** the **Final** Motion
- Ask for votes in favor, opposed, and abstentions



Request for Approval: Implementation of the FY17 Funding Commitment Plan:

- 1) Supporting PCORI Rapid Cycle Research**
 - 2) People-centered Communities**
-

Rachael Fleurence, PhD

Program Director, Research Infrastructure



Research Infrastructure FY2017 Funding Commitment Plan – FY2017 Budget

Commitment Line	Total FY2017	Current Request	Remaining
PCORnet Research	up to \$37.0 M	\$7.0 M	\$30.0 M
PCORnet Infrastructure (capacity building)	up to \$34.2 M	\$8.8 M	\$25.4 M

- The recommended plan advances PCORI's goal to engage PCORnet to serve PCORI's needs for real world information and responds to the expressed interests of the RTC and SOC in their joint meeting of November 1, 2016



Implementing the FY2017 Funding Commitment Plan

1

Utilize the PCORnet infrastructure to meet PCORI's need for rapid cycle information to serve the needs of PCORI staff, Board committees, and key stakeholders *through research funding* (up to \$7.0 M)

2

Support PPRN evolution by supporting the development of people-centered communities involving PPRNs and CDRNs *through infrastructure funding* (up to \$8.8 M)

Each of these requests is within the approved FY2017 funding commitment plan for PCORnet research and infrastructure.

Each was endorsed by the RTC on December 19, 2016.



(1) Implementing Rapid Research Studies within PCORnet

- Request: Approve the award of up to \$7.0 M for projects that utilize the PCORnet infrastructure for:
 - Descriptive analyses intended to help assess the feasibility of studies addressing stakeholder-prioritized topics (prep to research)
 - Implementing small, rapid, observational studies including analyses on PCORI-prioritized stakeholder-driven topics
- Responsive to PCORI's need for rapid evidence generation
 - On November 1, 2016 the Research Transformation Committee (RTC) and Science Oversight Committee (SOC) met jointly and discussed the need for PCORI to support rapid research prioritized by stakeholders
 - PCORnet was identified as an infrastructure to support rapid research
 - Rapid, descriptive observational research will be designed to lead to high-impact pragmatic studies
- Proof of concept for the National Evidence Generation Platform



(1) Implementing Rapid Research Studies within PCORnet, continued

Topics may come from:

- PCORI staff in science or engagement
- PCORI strategy committees
- Stakeholder groups who are working with PCORI (e.g., clinicians, payers)

Topic feasibility

- Topic feasibility determined by the expertise of the PCORnet Research Committee and PCORnet Coordinating Center

Rapid Observational Research

- PCORI staff authorized to award funding for specific topics after feasibility assessment **and rapid review/ approval process jointly developed by SOC and RTC** (up to \$7M in 2017)

Pragmatic Studies within PCORnet

- Larger studies that were generated from the rapid research projects would go through the usual Board approval processes

Supported through this funding request

RTC and SOC will be informed of progress throughout



(2) Supporting the evolution of PPRNs

- Request: The award of up to \$8.8 M would support development of up to 4 pilot people-centered communities based in current PPRNs through a two-year award to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC)
- Objective: To develop communities of people with shared purpose of better outcomes, faster and more effective knowledge generation
 - Launch 4 pilot people-centered communities from existing PPRNs
 - Based on the successful learning network model of engaging people, clinicians, and institutions simultaneously to improve outcomes through improvement and research
 - Communities aligned and integrated with CDRNs
- Based on staff recommendation and feedback from members of the PCORI Board, prime award will be made to CCHMC which:
 - Leads a PPRN (ImproveCareNow) within a Learning Network model
 - Has over 20 years of experience developing patient-engaged collaborative networks
 - Demonstrated that the Learning Network model can improve outcomes and care, produce new knowledge through research, and can be implemented across a range of conditions and contexts



(2) Supporting the evolution of PPRNs, continued

- Prime institution (CCHMC) will be responsible for:
 - Selecting 4 pilot communities willing to:
 - Evolve their current network towards a community of patients and clinicians working together to improve outcomes and generate new knowledge
 - Rapidly engage in funded research
 - Designing and developing pilot communities through activities including:
 - Developing strategic priorities
 - Developing network-specific changes in care and research to test and implement
 - Customizing a data and reporting system
 - Implementing the pilots through activities including:
 - Engaging relevant stakeholders at clinical sites drawn from PCORnet
 - Developing a “learning system” to enable the ability to track progress towards the achievement of the strategic priorities and sustainability approaches developed during the design and development phase
- RTC will be kept informed of progress



Proposed Motion

- That the PCORI Board of Governors approve each of the proposed activities for implementation of the FY2017 approved funding commitment plan:
 - Approve the award of up to \$7.0 M to utilize the PCORnet infrastructure to support stakeholder-prioritized research and conduct of rapid-observational research, subject to PCORI review and negotiation of final terms
 - Approve the award of up to \$8.8 M to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to support the development of up to 4 pilot people-centered communities, subject to PCORI review and negotiation of final terms



Board Vote

Call for a Motion to:

- **Approve** the Proposed Motion

Call for the Motion
to Be Seconded:

- **Second** the Motion
 - If further discussion, may propose an **Amendment** to the Motion or an **Alternative** Motion

Roll Call Vote:

- Vote to **Approve** the **Final** Motion
 - Ask for votes in favor, opposed, and abstentions



Training the Next Generation of PCOR Professionals to Lead Research Within Learning Health Systems

Allen Douma, MD

Joe Selby, MD, MPH

Sharon Arnold, PhD, Acting Director, AHRQ



Proposed PCORI-AHRQ Program for Training Researchers Based in Learning Health Systems

- PCORI would provide total of \$30M to support 6-8 **institutional** training programs, each with multiple trainees over 5 years – some housed within or affiliated with PCORnet sites – administered by AHRQ through K12 traineeship mechanism
- PCORI contribution would be a major component of AHRQ's new, national multi-pronged approach to training LHS researchers:
 - AHRQ will fund up to 3 more institutional awards, and also individual awards
 - LHS training within AHRQ's traditional NRSA training program
- Applicants may be academic institutions OR healthcare delivery systems with track records in systems-based research
- Target candidates include doctoral, post-doctoral scholars as well as masters level staff in leadership roles at participating health systems
- Program will combine didactic and experiential learning opportunities with research projects to ensure core competencies are mastered
- Affiliation with PCORnet mentioned as attractive feature, but not in any way required



Research in the Learning Health System

- Concept of researchers embedded within Learning Health Systems promoted by IOM beginning in 2012 and greatly advanced in PCORnet-IOM meetings with CEOs - 2014 and 2016
- Science, informatics, incentives, and culture are now aligned to make this feasible and necessary
- In-system experiences can generate new generalizable knowledge by systematically capturing and analyzing longitudinal data from the care experience
- Best practices can be identified from in-system research as well as external sources and embedded into care processes via EHR and into system culture and programs to improve outcomes
- Patients, families and clinicians expected to be active participants in all elements of the research and training program



Training A New Type of Health Services Researcher for the LHS

- Current Training Models: Support skills development in knowledge generation but not the additional skills or experience necessary to work and succeed within LHSs
- Concept: To embed and train new researchers at the interface of research, informatics and clinical operations within PCORnet and other learning health systems
- Core Competencies: To construct and implement training for a set of core competencies to guide the development of training programs for learning health systems researchers



Draft Core Competencies

- **Domain 1: Systems Science:** *systems theory, how systems operate*
- **Domain 2: Research Questions and Standards of Scientific Evidence:** *Asking meaningful questions and evaluating scientific evidence*
- **Domain 3: Research Methods**
- **Domain 4: Informatics:** *using IT systems to improve patient and system outcomes*
- **Domain 5: Ethics of Research and Implementation in Health Systems:** *Ensuring that research done in health care settings adheres to the highest ethical standards*
- **Domain 6: Improvement and Implementation Science:** *Reducing inappropriate variation in outcomes; ensuring systematic uptake of research findings*
- **Domain 7: Engagement, Leadership, and Research Management:** *Engaging patients, clinicians and others in all aspects of the research process*



Additional Program Features

- **Leverages PCORnet:** will provide opportunities to include PCORnet institutions and delivery systems, realizing value to health systems participating in PCORnet
- **Learning Collaborative Among Sites:** will create a national network and platform for trainees and faculty mentors to develop careers that foster multi-center system-based research, innovation, sharing of findings, further collaborations, and identification and study of challenges as well as solutions
- **Development of a Shared Curriculum:** combines expertise across sites to create a national online learning program that would make the curriculum available widely, beyond the original participating sites



Program Specifications

- Encourage applications from PCORnet academic institutions and/or delivery systems as training programs or partnered sites
- Require strong coordinated infrastructure at each institution to support a combination of didactic and experiential training
- Demonstrate a focus on conducting PCOR that is relevant to host health systems and that can be rapidly implemented to improve quality of care and patient outcomes
- Include research projects designed with LHS partners and conducted within LHSs with system data
- Include training and hands-on experience working with health systems data and informatics



Program Specifications

- Must focus on AHRQ-sponsored LHS training competencies or identify competencies their program will deploy, with justification
- Include evidence of support from host institutions and systems (direct or in-kind) and a long-term commitment to trainees
- Applicants should recruit trainees from other health systems thereby ensuring no more than 50% of trainees can come from the applicant institution



Recommendation for PCORI

- PCORI funding would support 6-8 institutional sites
- Anticipate 5-8 trainees per site over 5 years
 - Training duration 2-3 years
- Total of \$6 million/year for 5 years = \$30M
- Funding mechanism: MOU with AHRQ
- PCORI would participate in review of applications
- Board approval in January needed to support awards to begin summer of 2017



Benefits of this Joint Activity

- This funding announcement and partnership makes a clear statement that PCORI considers system-based research to be an essential, novel aspect of PCOR in the future
- It signals PCORI's interests and concerns for workforce training and supporting young investigators and helps to augment funding in the area of workforce training
- It builds on AHRQ's successful track-record in the area of workforce training and aligns our legislative mandate to contract with AHRQ when appropriate
- It has the potential to strengthen PCORnet by creating a cadre of young scientists familiar with PCORnet, the Common Data Model
- It provides a further incentive for health systems to value and work with PCORnet and PCORI



Funding Plan

- Funding for workforce training was not included in our FY2017 funding budget or commitment plan
- These costs would be covered with a combination of
 - 2017 funds (uncommitted research or engagement funds - if any - and savings in operational costs) and
 - funds currently slated for commitment in future years
- Generally, we have some residual, uncommitted funds from planned research and engagement each year; and savings in budgeted operational expenditures – these could cover a significant portion of the total costs
- The Board may always elect to commit and spend future, currently uncommitted, funds on a high-priority project not in the present year's budget. An example is our longstanding practice of “front-loading” research commitments



Questions?



Proposed Motion

- That the PCORI Board of Governors approve funding of up to \$30 M to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for the Research Training Program entitled **Training the Next Generation of PCOR Professionals to Lead Research Within Learning Health Systems**, subject to finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding between PCORI and AHRQ



Board Vote

Call for a Motion to:

- **Approve** the Proposed Motion

Call for the Motion
to Be Seconded:

- **Second** the Motion
 - If further discussion, may propose an **Amendment** to the Motion or an **Alternative** Motion

Roll Call Vote:

- Vote to **Approve** the **Final** Motion
 - Ask for votes in favor, opposed, and abstentions



Wrap Up and Adjournment

Grayson Norquist, MD, MSPH
Chairperson, Board of Governors

