

# Advisory Panel on Rare Disease (RDAP) Virtual Meeting: Spring 2020

---

June 22, 2020

**Scott Berns, MD, MPH**  
Chair, RDAP

**Cindy Luxhoj, MUP**  
Co-Chair, RDAP

**Nora McGhee, PhD**  
Senior Program Officer, HDDR  
Staff Co-Chair, RDAP

**Carly Khan, PhD, MPH, RN**  
Program Officer, HDDR  
Staff Co-Chair, RDAP

**Rohini Mohanraj, MHA**  
Program Associate, Research Infrastructure  
Panel Manager, RDAP

# RDAP Chairs



**Scott Berns, MD, MPH**

Chair, Advisory Panel on Rare Disease  
Chief Executive Officer, National  
Institute for Children's Health Quality



**Cindy Luxhoj, MUP**

Co-Chair, Advisory Panel on Rare Disease  
Founder and former Executive Director,  
Alagille Syndrome Alliance

# Housekeeping



- Please note that today's webinar is being recorded for posting on PCORI's website. The recording will be available to the public after the event.
- Members of the public are invited to listen to the teleconference and view the webinar.
- Meeting materials can be found on the PCORI website. The recording of the webinar will also be made available to the public after this event.
- Anyone may submit a comment through the webinar chat function.
  - No public comment period is scheduled

Please visit [www.pcori.org/events](http://www.pcori.org/events) for more information.

# COI Statement



Welcome to the Rare Disease Advisory Panel Spring 2020 virtual meeting.

I want to remind everyone that disclosures of conflicts of interest of members of the Advisory Panel are publicly available on PCORI's website. Members of the Rare Disease Advisory Panel are reminded to update your conflict of interest disclosures if the information has changed, in addition to completing your annual disclosure. You can do this by contacting your staff representative, Rohini Mohanraj.

Finally, if the Rare Disease Advisory Panel will deliberate or take action on a matter that presents a conflict of interest for you, please inform one of the co-chairs so we can discuss how to best address the issue.

# 6/22 Virtual Meeting Agenda



Start Time	Agenda Items	Discussion Leader
1:00 PM	Welcome and Setting the Stage, RDAP Panel Introductions	Scott Berns Cindy Luxhoj
1:20 PM	Introduction of RDAP PCORI Members and PCORI Update	Carly Khan Nora McGhee
1:25 PM	Introduction to Dr. Cook	Nakela Cook
2:10 PM	<b>BREAK</b> (10 minutes)	
2:20 PM	National Priorities and Research Agenda	Michele Orza Greg Martin
3:05 PM	Overview of Reauthorization and Cost Data Provision	Jean Slutsky Andrew Hu
3:55 PM	<b>BREAK</b> (10 minutes)	

# 6/22 Virtual Meeting Agenda (continued)



Start Time	Agenda Items	Discussion Leader
<b>4:05 PM</b>	Maternal Mortality, Intellectual Disabilities, and Balancing Short- and Long-Term Priorities	Jean Slutsky Kristin Carman Elisabeth Houtsmuller Stanley Ip Caitlin McCormick
<b>4:40 PM</b>	Recognition of Departing Panel Members	Scott Berns
<b>4:50 PM</b>	Acknowledgments and Recap	Scott Berns, Cindy Luxhoj
<b>5:00 PM</b>	Adjourn	

# RDAP Panelist Introductions

---



# Introductions



Please briefly state the following:

- Name
- Position title and organization
- Stakeholder group you represent

# RDAP Members



## CLINICIANS

### Scott Berns (Chair)

- CEO, National Institute for Children's Health Quality

Sherene Shalhub (University of Washington)

## RESEARCHERS

Roxanna Bendixen (University of Pittsburgh)

Stephen Mathai (Johns Hopkins University)

## POLICY MAKERS

Saira Sultan (CEO, Connect4Strategies)

## INDUSTRY

Marcia Rupnow (GSK)

## PATIENTS, CAREGIVERS, AND PATIENT ADVOCATES

### Cindy Luxhoj (Co-Chair)

- Founder & Former Executive Director, Alagille Syndrome Alliance

Julie Abramson (Hennepin County)

Vanessa Boulanger (NORD)

Julie Gortze (Rare New England)

Doug Lindsay (Personal Medical Consultant)

Tilicia Mayo-Gamble (Georgia Southern University)

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Naomi Aronson (BCBSA)

# RDAP Staff Introductions

---



# Rare Disease Advisory Panel – PCORI Staff



**Carly Khan, PhD, MPH, RN**  
Program Officer,  
*Healthcare Delivery and  
Disparities Research*



**Nora McGhee, PhD**  
Senior Program Officer  
*Clinical Effectiveness  
and Decision Science*



**Rohini Mohanraj, MHA**  
Program Associate  
*Research Infrastructure*

# RDAP Program Staff Update

---



# PCORnet® Limited Competition Funding Announcement: Rare Disease Research



- RDAP members engaged in discussion at the September 2019 meeting about the potential for rare disease research using PCORnet®
- Feedback was incorporated into the Cycle 2 2020 Funding Announcement: Conducting Rare Disease Research Using PCORnet®
- PCORI has received the Letters of Intent for this call and full applications will be invited by the end of June
  - Applications are due September 2020
  - Awards announced March 2021

# Upcoming Activities



- PCORI staff will present at the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) Living Rare, Living Stronger Forum (virtual July 18-19) during a session titled, "Current Trends & Opportunities in Rare Disease Research."
- The PCORI Annual Meeting will feature a breakout session focused on Rare Disease research

# Introduction to Dr. Nakela Cook

---

Dr. Nakela Cook, PCORI Executive Director



# Driving Toward Health Impact: Our Journey and Path Forward

A photograph of a beach at sunset. Two people are walking away from the camera towards the horizon. Their silhouettes are visible against the bright sky. They are leaving a trail of dark footprints in the light-colored sand. The ocean is visible in the background, and the sky is filled with warm orange and yellow hues of the setting sun.

Rare Diseases Advisory Panel (RDAP)  
June 22, 2020

Nakela Cook, MD, MPH  
Executive Director  
Patient-Centered Outcomes  
Research Institute

# Our Discussion Today



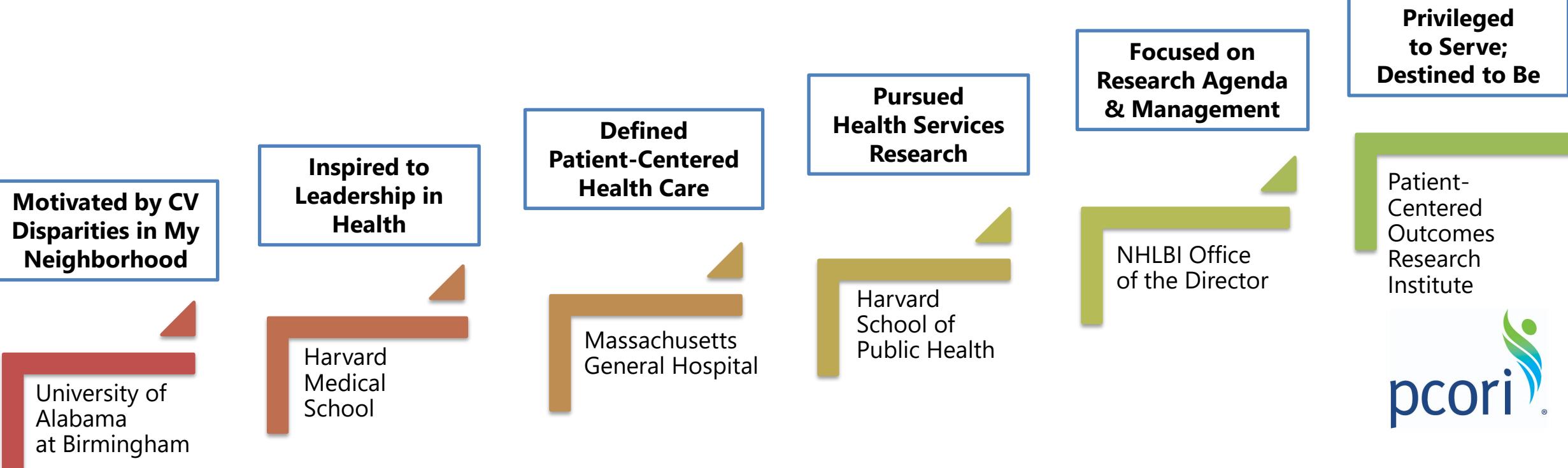
- My journey to PCORI
- Evolving healthcare landscape
- Health disparities and COVID-19
- PCORI 2.0



A wide-angle photograph of a calm lake. In the foreground, the tip of a yellow canoe with a white stripe is visible, pointing towards the center of the frame. The lake's surface is a mirror, reflecting the surrounding dense evergreen forests on both the left and right banks. The sky above is a clear, pale blue with a few wispy white clouds. A dark grey rectangular box is positioned in the upper center of the image, containing the text.

# My Journey to PCORI

# Fulfilling a Life's Purpose



# At the Heart of PCORI



- Dedicated and mission-driven Staff, Board of Governors, Committees, Panels
- Committed stakeholders: Patients, Caregivers, Healthcare Community



# Rare Diseases Advisory Panel

## Accomplishments



- Developed Rare Disease Research Guide for Merit Reviewers
- Provided input on PCORI's Guidance on Research in Rare Diseases
- Issued recommendations on developing core outcome set for Pediatric Rare Disease research
- Developed priority areas for conducting Rare Disease Research using PCORnet



# Rare Diseases Advisory Panel

## Accomplishments



- Developed Rare Disease Research Guide for Merit Reviewers
- Provided input on PCORI's Guidance on Research in Rare Diseases
- Issued recommendations on developing core outcome set for Pediatric Rare Disease research
- Developed priority areas for conducting Rare Disease Research using PCORnet



# Overcoming Challenges



“Courage is simply doing whatever is needed in pursuit of the vision.”

— Peter M. Senge, *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of The Learning Organization*

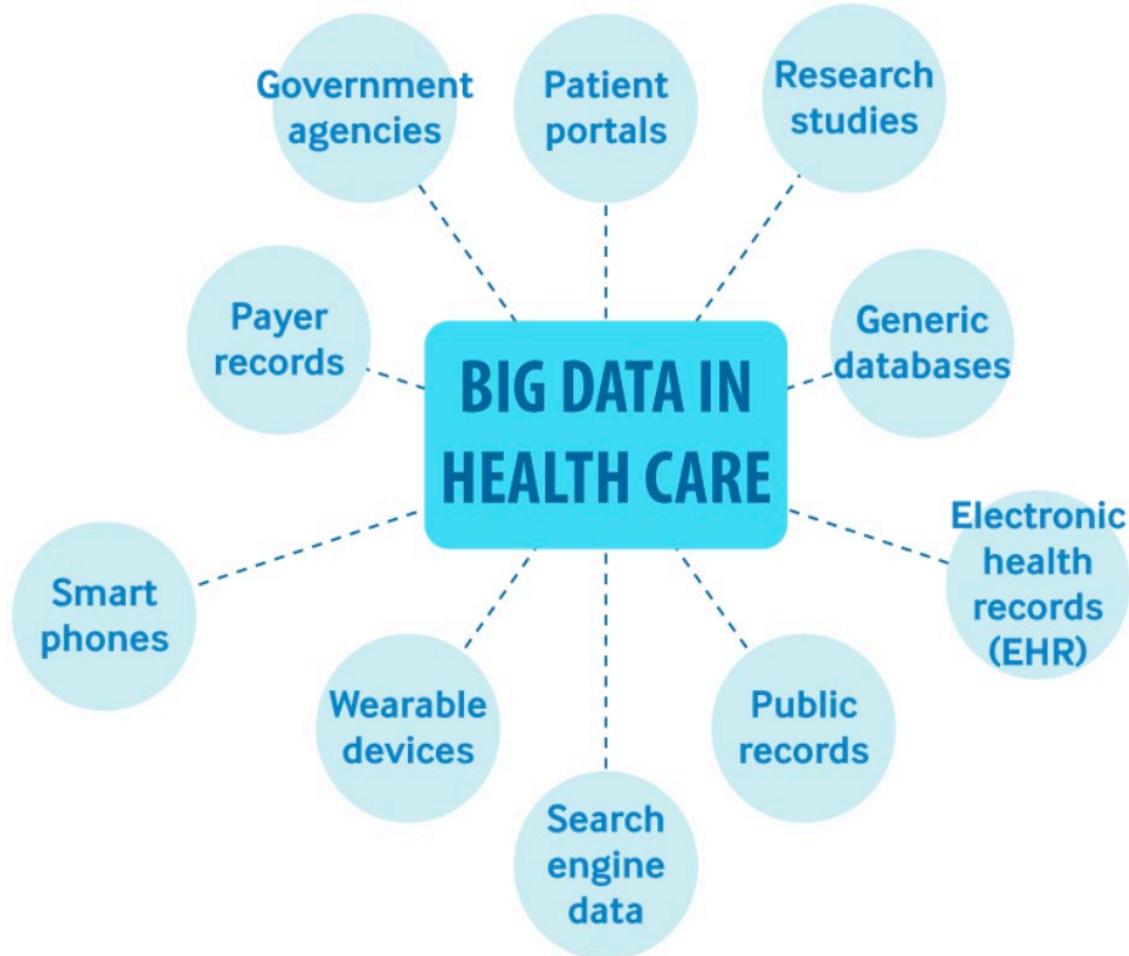
# Evolving Healthcare Landscape



# Era of Big Data



## Sources of Big Data in Healthcare



## Applications for Big Data in Healthcare



# Leveraging Innovation to Deliver Improved Outcomes



Digital health



Big data



Precision medicine

# Despite Improvements in Health, Disparities and Variation in Care Remain



This Issue Views 90,724 | Citations 22 | Altmetric 4322

## Special Communication

November 26, 2019

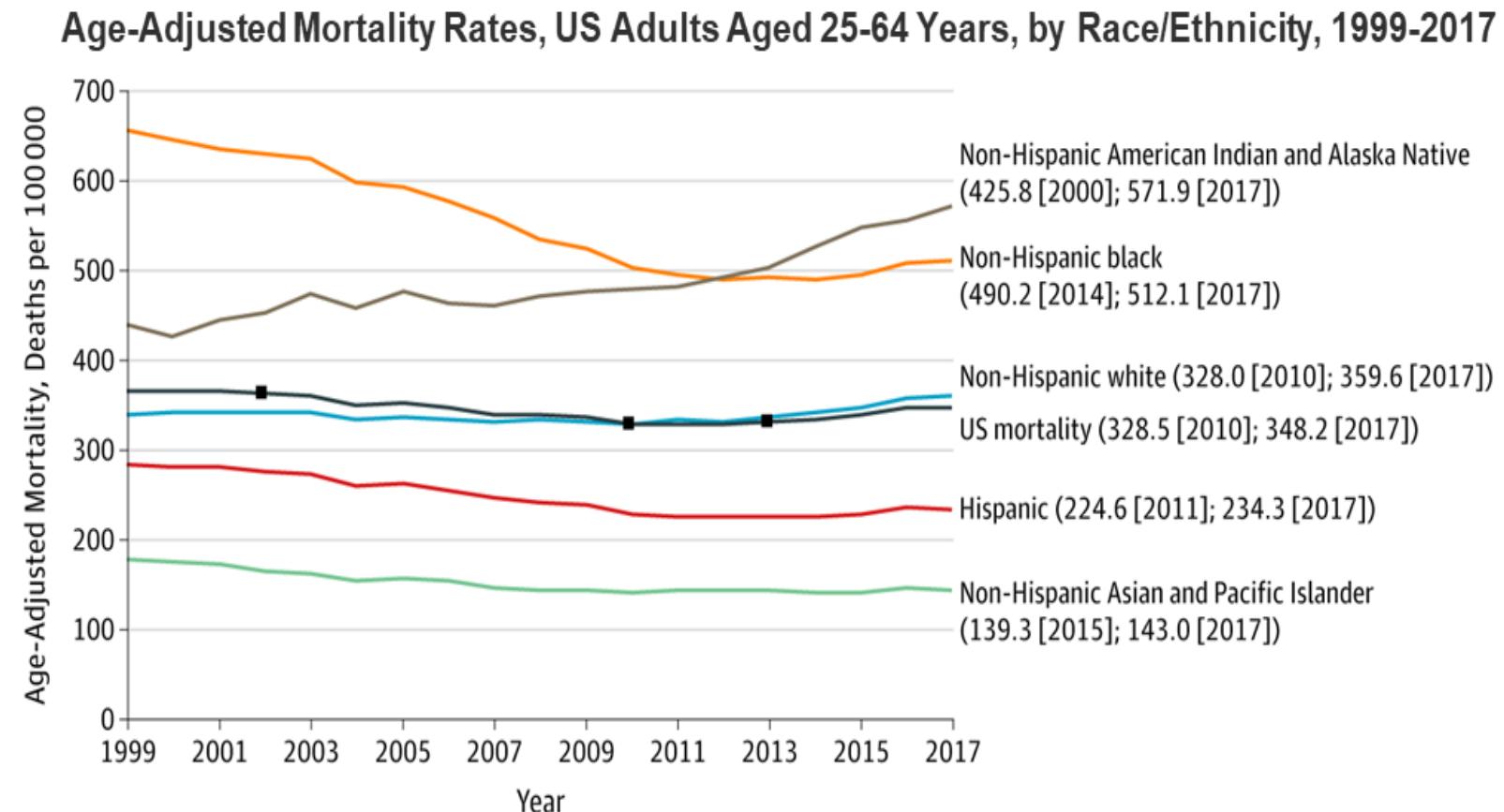
## Life Expectancy and Mortality Rates in the United States, 1959-2017

Steven H. Woolf, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Heidi Schoomaker, MAEd<sup>2,3</sup>

### Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2019;322(20):1996-2016. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.16932

Black curve indicates age-adjusted mortality for all US adults aged 25 to 64 years; bolded data points indicate joinpoint years, when the linear trend (slope) changed significantly based on joinpoint analysis. The lowest mortality rates per 100 000 (and the years they were achieved) are listed first in parentheses; mortality rates for 2017 listed second.



Source: CDC WONDER.

Copyright 2019 American Medical Association.  
All Rights Reserved. Date of download: 4/28/20

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2756187>

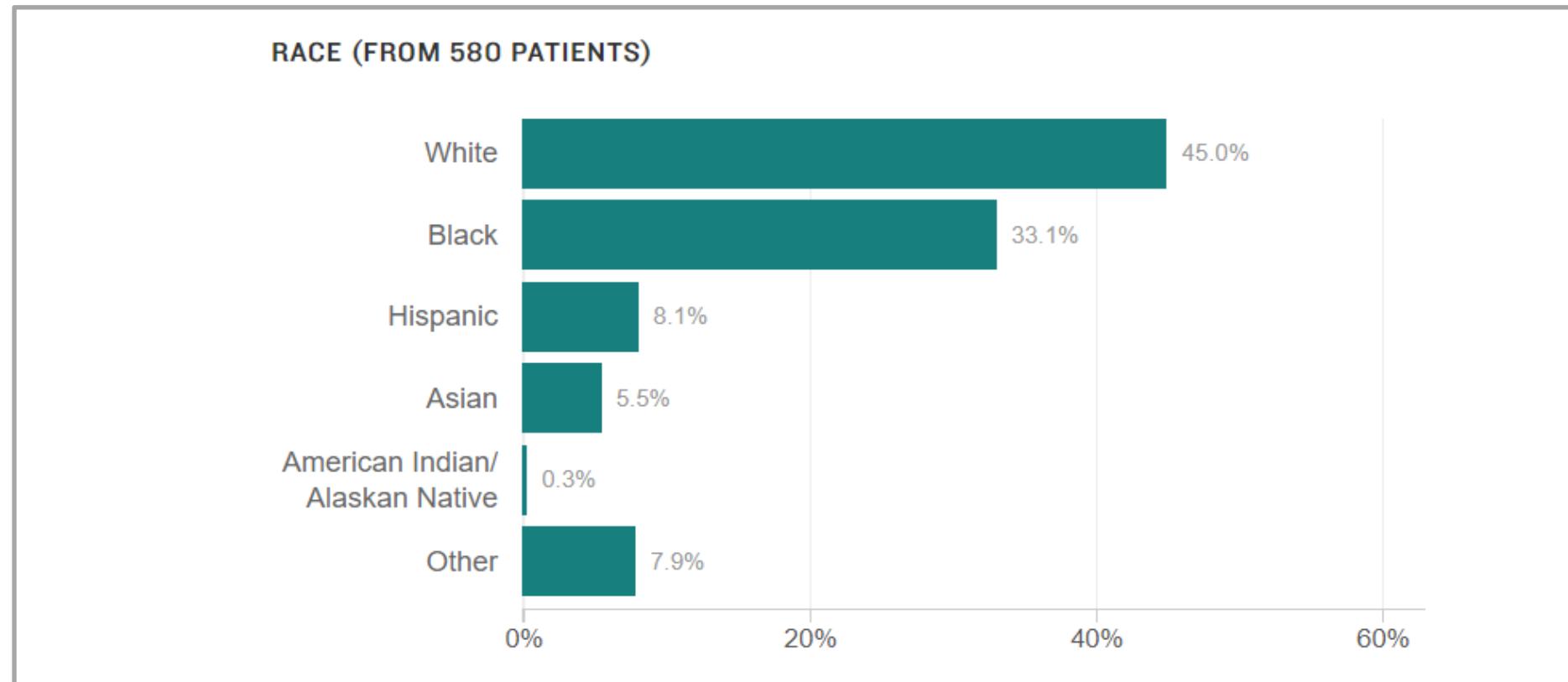


Health disparities  
and COVID-19

# COVID-19 Outcomes Elucidate the Challenge of Health Disparities

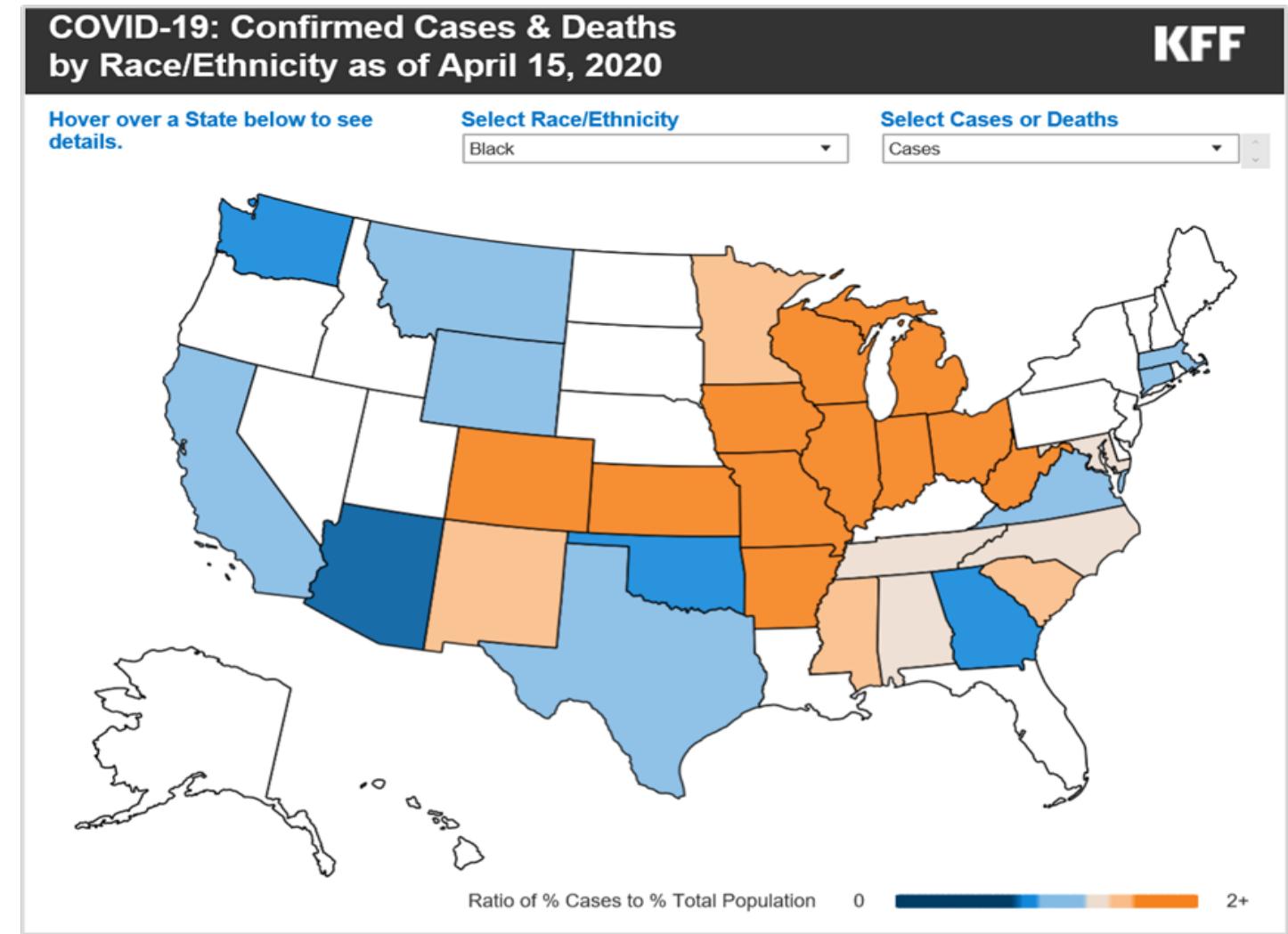


## Differences in COVID-19-related hospitalization by race/ethnicity



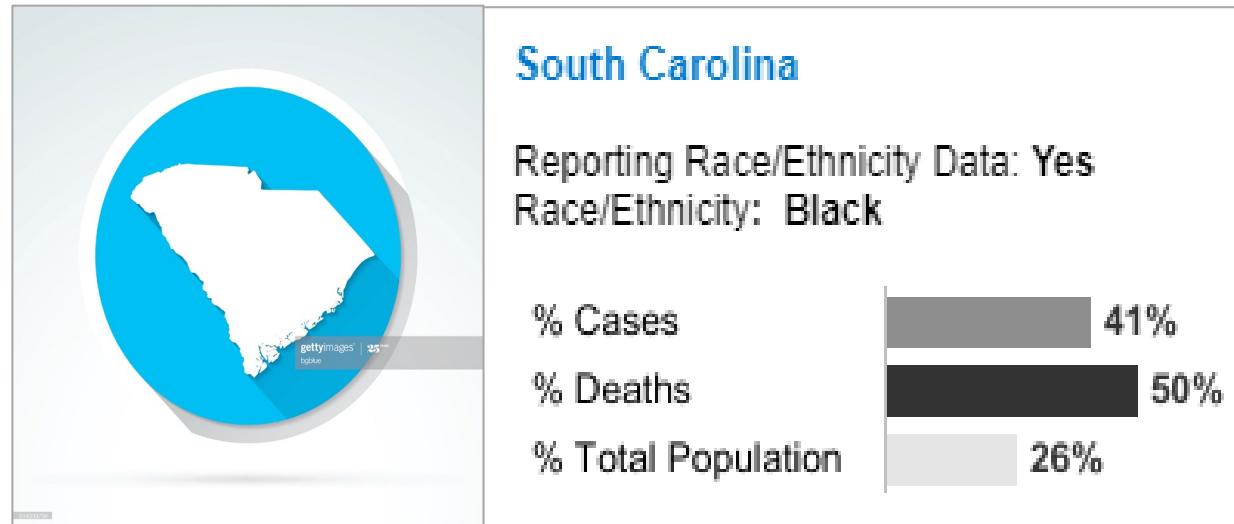
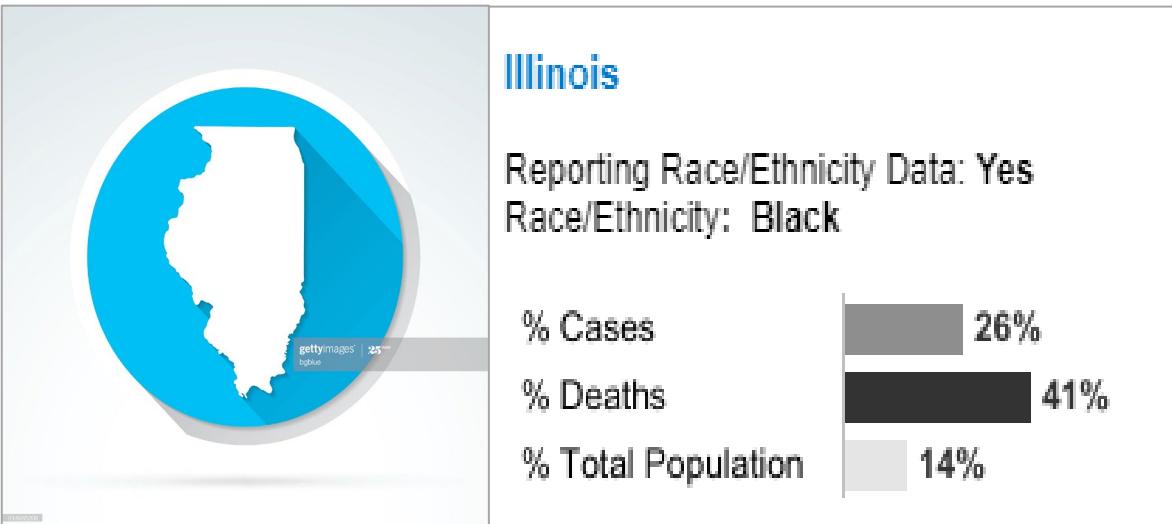
**Source:** Aubrey A, Neel J. CDC Hospital Data Point To Racial Disparity In COVID-19 Cases. April 8, 2020. ([link](#))  
Data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([link](#)); Figure credit: Stephanie Adeline/NPR

# Unmasking the Interplay Between Race/Ethnicity and COVID-19

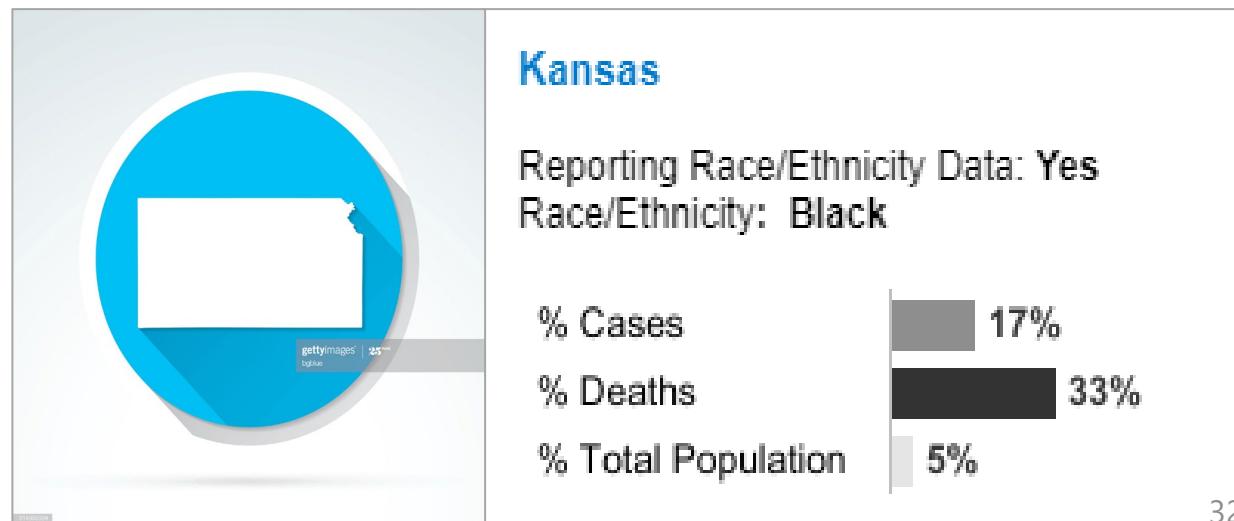


**Source:** Kaiser Family Foundation. [COVID-19: Confirmed Cases & Deaths by Race/Ethnicity as of April 15, 2020](#). Distribution of Cases/Deaths by Race/Ethnicity based on KFF analysis of publicly available state websites. Total State Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity based on KFF analysis of 2018 American Community Survey. Accessed 4/28/20

# Unmasking the Interplay Between Race/Ethnicity and COVID-19



**Source:** Kaiser Family Foundation. [COVID-19: Confirmed Cases & Deaths by Race/Ethnicity as of April 15, 2020](#). Distribution of Cases/Deaths by Race/Ethnicity based on KFF analysis of publicly available state websites. Total State Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity based on KFF analysis of 2018 American Community Survey. Accessed 4/28/20



# Pandemic of Unprecedented Scale and Consequences



Cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19

**>8 million worldwide**



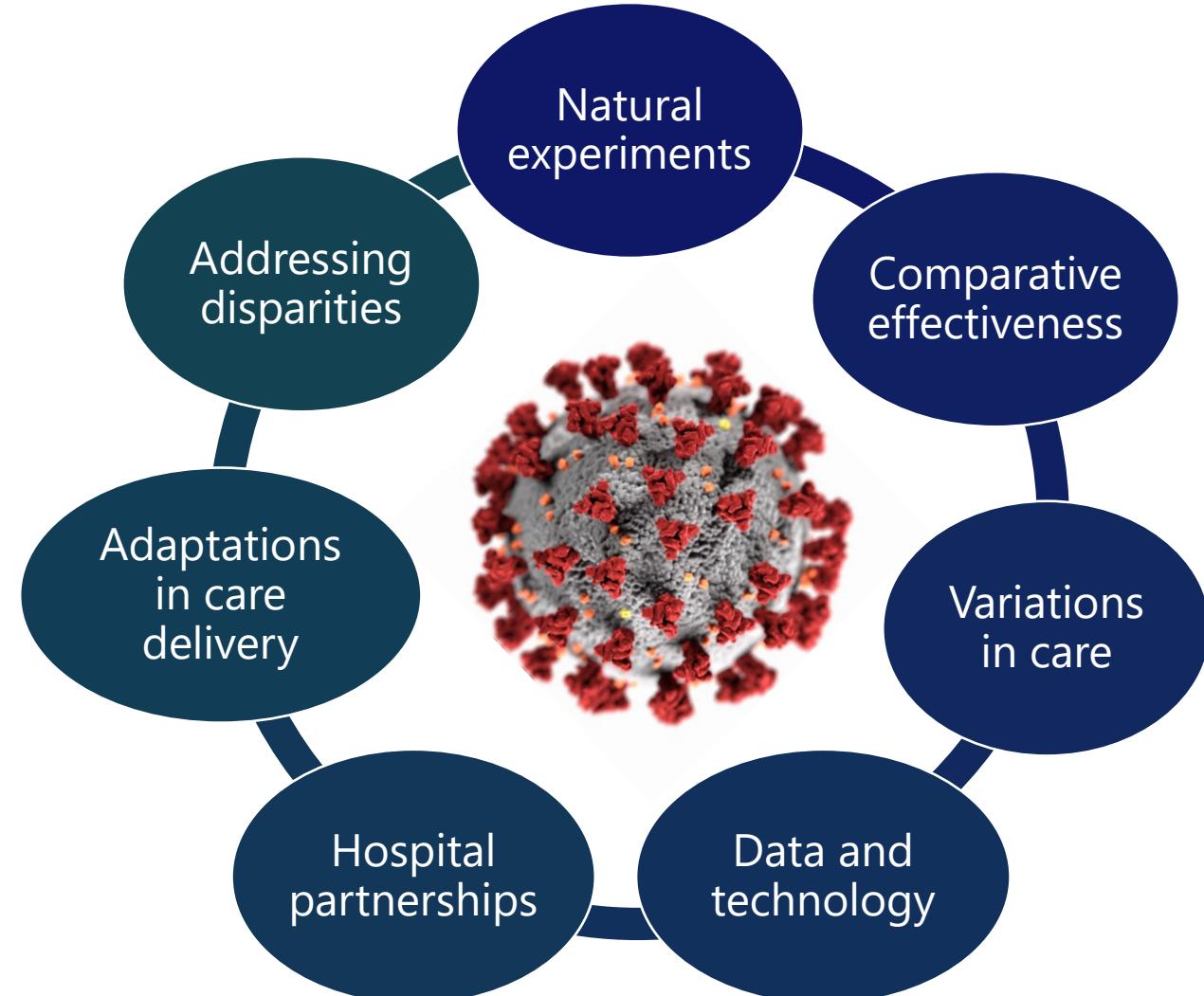
**Source:** COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html> Accessed 4/28/20.

# A Stress Test and Learning Opportunity



## Advancing PCORI 2.0

A Learning  
Organization  
Nimbly Embracing  
Opportunities in a  
Crisis for Short and  
Long-term Impact



# PCORI's Response to the COVID-19 Health Crisis

## Healthcare Delivery

## Vulnerable Populations

## Healthcare Workers

## Emerging Health Trends

Many approaches to supporting critical work in these areas and more:

### Awards

- Enhancements of existing awards
- Solicitation of new awards
- Healthcare worker registry/trial

### Information Sharing

- Webinars
- Collaboration with other funders

### Adapting for Awardees and Applicants

- Adaptations to existing projects
- Extending application timelines

# PCORI COVID-19 Funding to Date



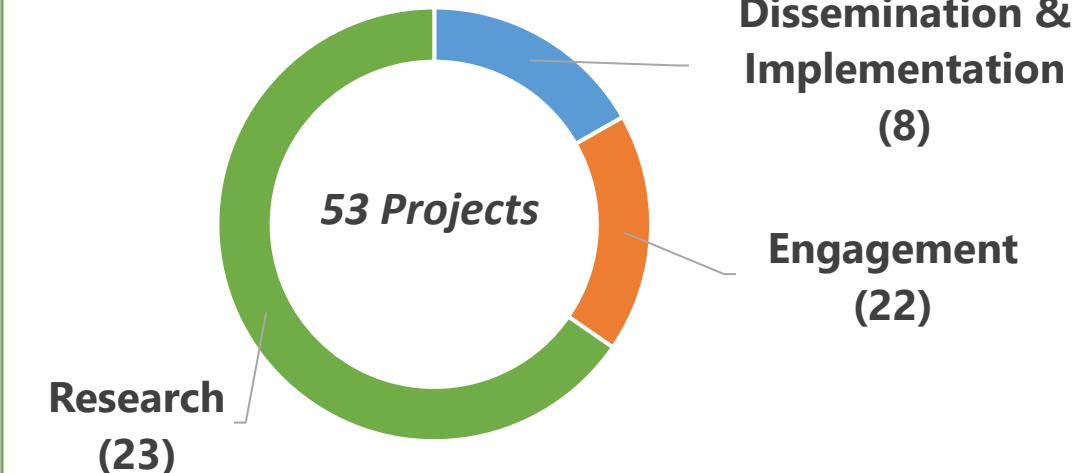
HERO  
Healthcare Worker Exposure Response & Outcomes  
Uniting our healthcare community to protect the health and well-being of America's frontline workers  
The Best Way to Thank a HERO is to Learn With You  
[www.heroesresearch.org](http://www.heroesresearch.org)

## COVID-19 Targeted Funding

- Adaptations to healthcare delivery
- Impact on vulnerable populations
- Healthcare workforce well-being, management and training



## COVID-19 Enhancement Projects



# PCORI – Always Relevant

## *Meaningful research questions in healthcare delivery*



What is the experience of healthcare workers during COVID-19 that can inform key clinical comparative effectiveness questions?

What are the most effective practices for telehealth? Can our current natural experiment shed light on whether telehealth can deliver similar outcomes for patient care and management?

What are the predictors of poor outcomes in COVID-19 infection and can we systematize predictive algorithms to determine who is likely to need intensive care?

What approaches are effective in eliminating health and healthcare disparities in COVID outcomes and how are they generalizable to disparities more broadly?

# Accelerate Impact on Care and Patient Outcomes



## Engagement

- New and sustained partnerships
- Diverse stakeholder inclusion
- Bipartisan congressional support

## Innovation

- Patient-centered learning health care
- Rapid cycle of evidence to implementation
- Pragmatic approaches to lower disparities

## Operations

- Creative funding approaches
- Efficient and effective processes

# Accelerate Impact on Care and Patient Outcomes: Engagement



Engagement

## ***Impact***

- *Patients, clinicians, payers, employers, systems as partners for dissemination and uptake*
- *Evidence to implementation*
- *PCORI integral in research ecosystem*

## ***Impact Post-COVID-19***

- *Hospitals and healthcare systems working together*
- *Gaps in evidence for decision-making driving research*
- *PCORI essential*

# Accelerate Impact on Care and Patient Outcomes: Innovation



Innovation

## ***Impact***

- *"Real-time" implementation of findings*
- *Uptake into guidelines and care*
- *Reduced variation in care and disparities in conditions/populations*

## ***Impact Post-COVID-19***

- *"Real-time" queries, output, and implementation guiding accelerated uptake in clinical care*
- *Acute and recommitted focus on variations in care and disparities*

# Accelerate Impact on Care and Patient Outcomes: Operations



Operations

## ***Impact***

- *Nimble and adaptable methods to speed innovation to results to patients*
- *Robust pool of outstanding research (built capacity)*

## ***Impact Post-COVID-19***

- *Understanding of strengths and limitations of agile and adaptable processes and research*
- *Clearer approach to leveraging data, technology, infrastructure*
- *Expanded research pool*



# PCORI 2.0: The Journey Ahead

# Envisioning PCORI 2.0



Advance Patient-Centered Learning Health Care

Reduce Health Disparities

Disseminate & Implement Scientific Findings

*Engage Stakeholders*

*Crowdsource*

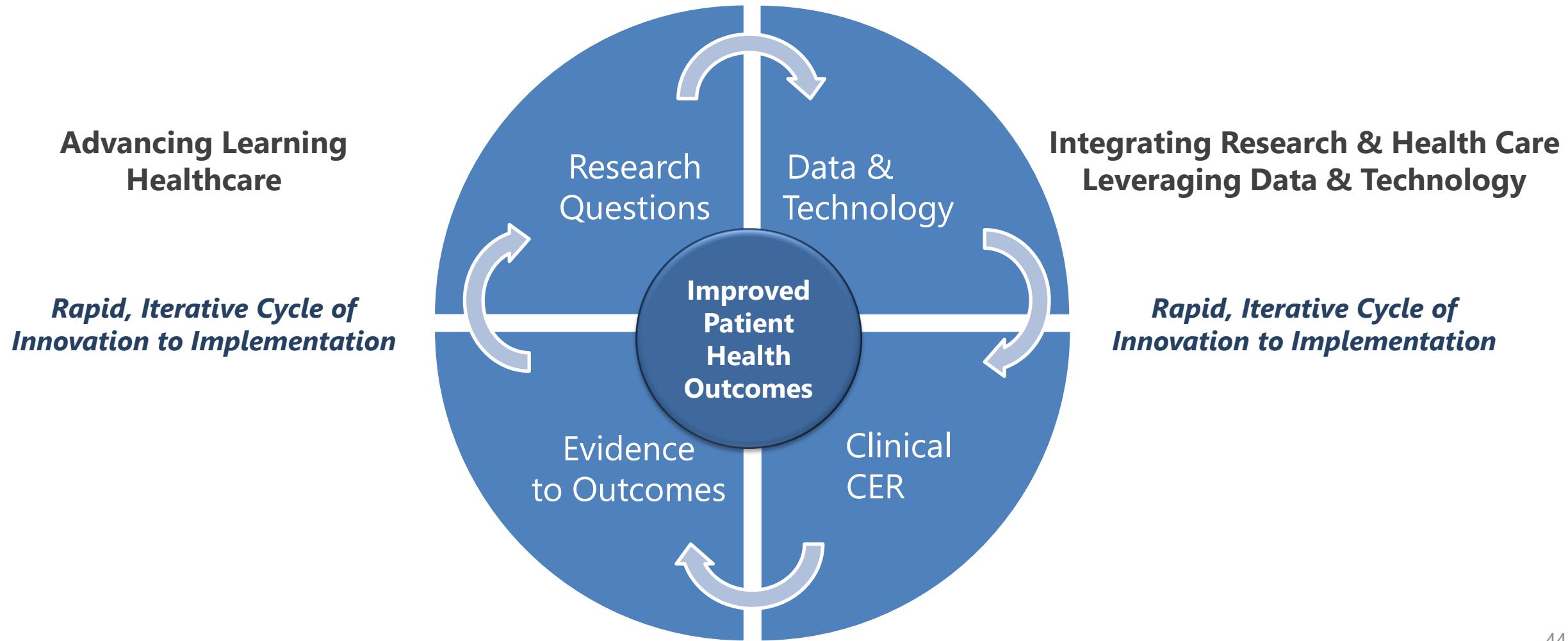
*Reflect, Discuss*

*Comment*

**Generate Evidence:  
Patient-Centered & Relevant to Patients**

***Pillars underscored by current pandemic***

# PCORI 2.0: A Virtuous Cycle of Evidence to Implementation



# First-Year Focus



- Virtual listening tour
- PCORI's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- National Priority setting and development of Research Agenda and strategic plan
- Other priorities stemming from legislation (e.g., maternal mortality, intellectual and developmental disabilities, cost outcomes)



# Collaborative Strategy to Advance a Vision for PCORI 2.0



## Refreshing National Priorities, Research Agenda, and Strategic Plan

Garner diverse input to guide scientific directions

*Patients, Clinicians, Researchers, Purchasers, Payers, Industry,  
Hospitals & Health Systems, Policy Makers, Training Institutions*

Listening Tour

Conduct portfolio analyses & evaluate research programs

Refine priority research areas

Develop implementation plans

Align resources with research priorities

# RDAP Advisory Panel

## *National Priority Setting and Research Agenda*



What are the driving questions, outcomes, and measurements to fulfill PCORI's comparative clinical effectiveness research agenda in rare disease populations? What are the challenges and how do we overcome them?

How do we identify common symptoms across rare diseases that affect burden of disease to identify effective approaches to diagnosis and treatment?

How do we advance Rare Disease Research amid the current pandemic?

What are the critical resource and workforce issues to implement these considerations for the next phase for PCORI?

# Thank You

# **BREAK**

---

2:10 – 2:20 PM EST



# National Priorities & Research Agenda

---

Michele Orza, Chief of Staff

Greg Martin, Deputy, Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer



# Agenda



1. Statutory Mandates
2. Current National Priorities
3. Looking Forward: Panelists' Perspectives on a Refresh

1.

---

## Statutory Mandate



# National Priorities



- Required under PCORI's authorizing law.
- Identification is a core duty—the first enumerated duty—of the Institute
- Intended to guide PCORI and provide transparency to the public on the Institute's investment strategy in patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research

## **Subtitle D—Patient-Centered Outcomes Research**

### **SEC. 6301. PATIENT-CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

#### **“PART D—COMPARATIVE CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH**

##### **“COMPARATIVE CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH**

“SEC. 1181 [42 U.S.C. 1320e]. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means the Board of Governors established under subsection (f).

“(2) COMPARATIVE CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH; RESEARCH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘comparative clinical effectiveness research’ and ‘research’ mean research evaluating and comparing health outcomes and the clinical effectiveness, risks, and benefits of 2 or more medical treatments, services, and items described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) MEDICAL TREATMENTS, SERVICES, AND ITEMS DESCRIBED.—The medical treatments, services, and items described in this subparagraph are health care interventions, protocols for treatment, care management, and delivery, procedures, medical devices, diagnostic tools, pharmaceuticals (including drugs and biologicals), integrative health practices, and any other strategies or items being used in the treatment, management, and diagnosis of, or prevention of illness or injury in, individuals.

# National Priorities

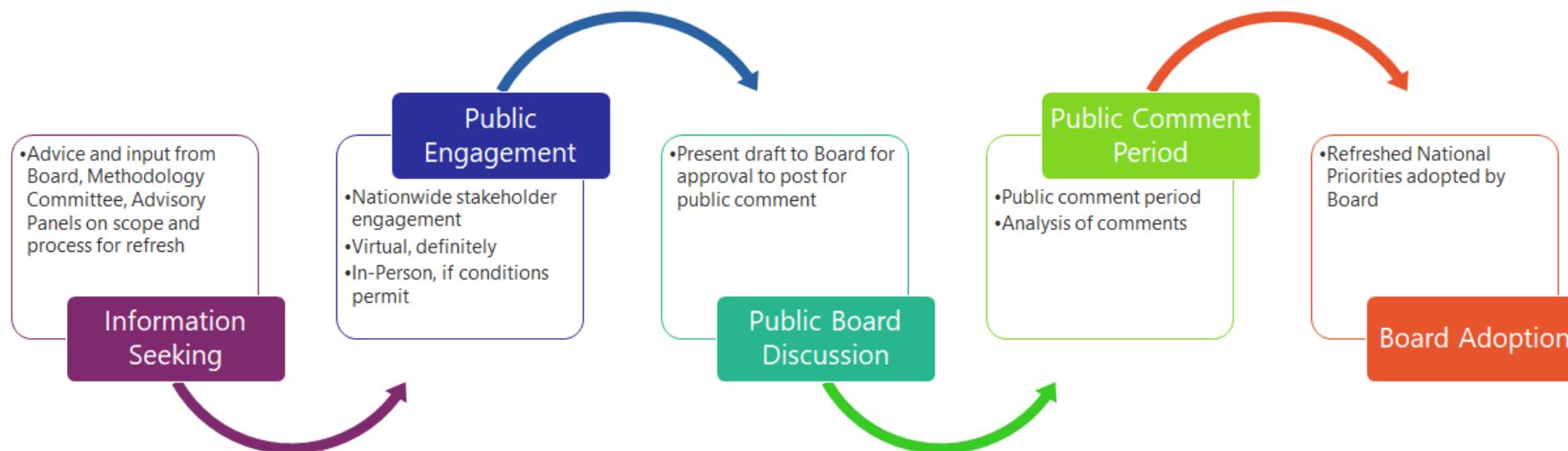


- The Institute shall identify national priorities for research, taking into account **factors of disease** incidence, prevalence, and burden in the United States (with emphasis on chronic conditions), **gaps in evidence** in terms of clinical outcomes, **practice variations** and **health disparities** in terms of delivery and outcomes of care, the **potential for new evidence** to improve patient health, well-being, and the quality of care, the effect on national expenditures associated with a health care treatment, strategy, or health conditions, as well as patient needs, outcomes, and preferences, the relevance to patients and clinicians in making informed health decisions...

*\*emphasis added*

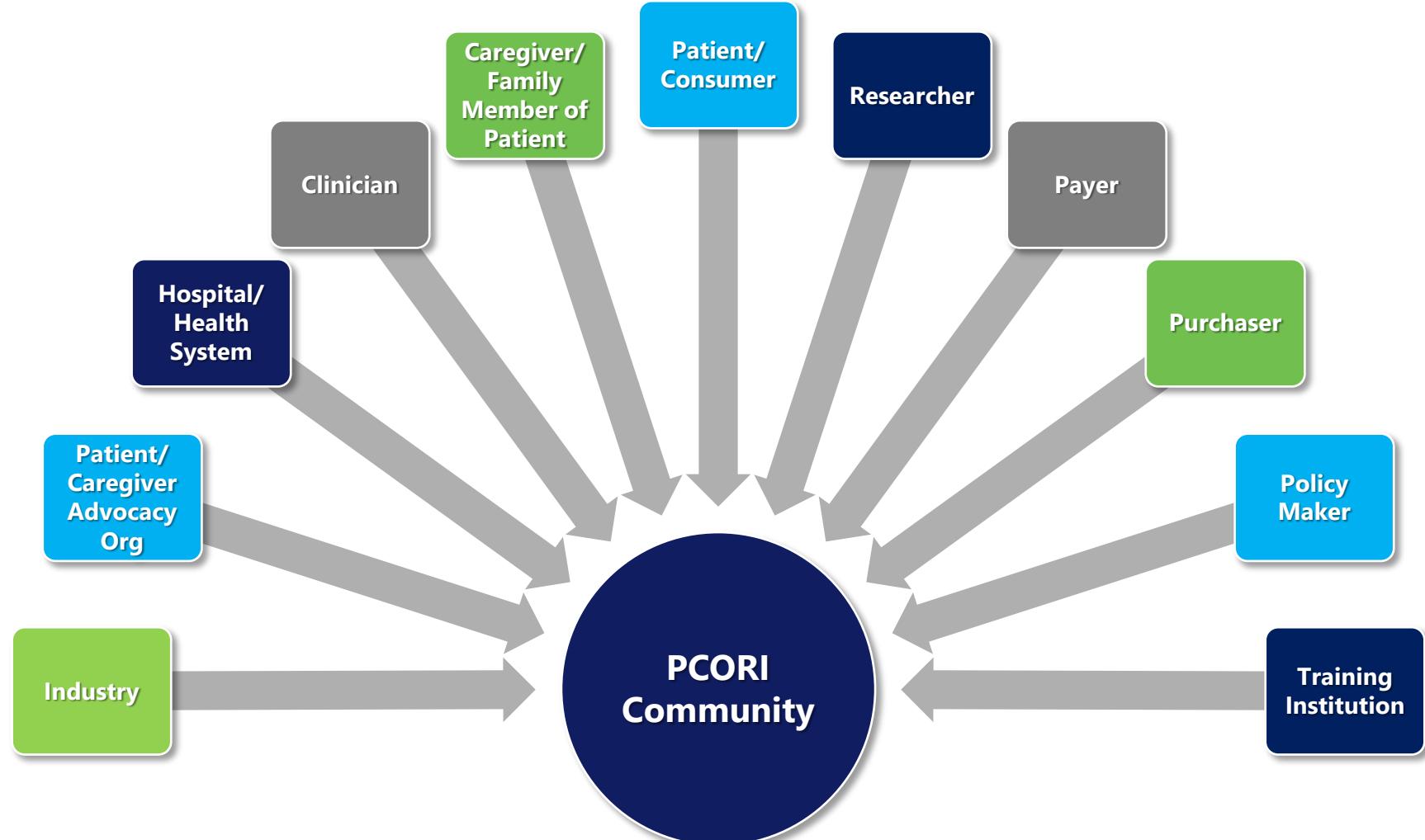
# Mandated Process

- Formal Public Comment is required
  - Minimum: 45 days
  - Maximum: 60 days
- Final approval/adoption rests with PCORI Board of Governors



# Who We Will Engage

- PCORI
  - Board of Governors
  - Methodology Committee
  - Advisory Panels
- Our Stakeholders across the Nation



2.

---

## Current National Priorities



# Our Current National Priorities



## Our prior approach

- Broad national priorities
- Articulation of criteria to inform the *process* for establishing a research agenda

### Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options

- Comparing the effectiveness and safety of alternative prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options to see which ones work best for different people with a particular health problem.

### Improving Healthcare Systems

- Comparing health system-level approaches to improving access, supporting patient self-care, innovative use of health information technology, coordinating care for complex conditions, and deploying workforce effectively.

### Communication and Dissemination Research

- Comparing approaches to providing comparative effectiveness research information, empowering people to ask for and use the information, and supporting shared decision-making between patients and their providers.

### Addressing Disparities

- Identifying potential differences in prevention, diagnosis or treatment effectiveness, or preferred clinical outcomes across patient populations and the healthcare required to achieve best outcomes in each population.

### Accelerating Patient-Centered Outcomes Research and Methodological Research

- Improving the nation's capacity to conduct patient-centered outcomes research, by building data infrastructure, improving analytic methods, and training researchers, patients and other stakeholders to participate in this research.

3.

---

## Looking Forward: Perspectives on a Refresh



# We Want to Hear from You



- Questions and Discussion

# Overview of Reauthorization & Cost Data Provision

---

Jean Slutsky, Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer

Andrew Hu, Director, Public Policy and Government Relations



# Consideration of Full Range of Outcomes Data



Where appropriate, PCORI-funded studies may capture data on the **potential burdens and economic impacts** of the utilization of medical treatments, items, and services for all stakeholders. This data includes:

- Medical out-of-pocket costs, including:
  - Health plan benefit
  - Formulary design
- Healthcare utilization
- Nonmedical costs to patients and family, including:
  - Caregiving
  - Effects on future costs of care
  - Workplace productivity
  - Absenteeism

This compromise language **does not** remove statutory prohibitions on PCORI establishing cost-per quality adjusted life year (QALY) thresholds or allow PCORI to conduct cost-effectiveness analyses

# Consideration of Full Range of Outcomes Congressional and Stakeholder Intent



- Congressional leaders and stakeholders across the healthcare community weighed in on whether to include provisions directing PCORI to capture additional economic/cost-related data
- The goals of this provision is to direct PCORI-funded research to better inform healthcare decisions based on the clinical effectiveness, impact on patient-reported outcomes, **and** potential economic and cost burden
- The provision is a compromise between stakeholders to ensure PCORI-funded research capture both population-level (i.e., utilization, ROI, etc.) and patient-centric (i.e., caregiver burden, impact on medical out-of-pocket costs, etc.) data
- This compromise language **does not** remove statutory prohibitions on PCORI establishing cost-per quality adjusted life year (QALY) thresholds or allow PCORI to conduct cost-effectiveness analyses

# Consideration of Full Range of Outcomes Early Stakeholder Input on Implementation



## Summary of the key take-aways for implementation include:

- Ensure **transparency**, notably patient engagement, throughout implementation
- Identify the **long-term goals** of capturing this data to inform implementation efforts
- Consider the **full range of treatment options** and the **investment costs** for payers and health systems to implement practice change
- Need to **develop standards** around identifying and capturing patient-centric cost data
- **Concerns around the use/misuse** of cost data that could lead to cost-effectiveness or inappropriate value assessment
- Hope to **expand beyond traditional health economic perspectives** on cost/value

# Considerations of Full Range of Outcomes

## Tentative Implementation Proposal



### Phase 1

- Providing guidance to PIs in future PFAs on how they should interpret this policy and incorporate it into their research proposals.
- **Timeline:** Complete Phase 1 by January 5, 2021

### Phase 2

- Establishing standards and methods to inform the field on how to capture relevant data.
- **Timeline:** 12 months from the initiation of this process

### Phase 3

- Convening discussions on how this information can/should be used.
- **Timeline:** Ongoing Discussion

# BREAK

---

3:55 – 4:05 PM EST



# Maternal Mortality, Intellectual Disabilities, and Balancing Short- and Long- Term Priorities

---

Jean Slutsky, Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer  
Kristin Carman, Director, Public and Patient Engagement  
Elisabeth Houtsmuller, Associate Director, HDDR  
Stanley Ip, Interim Program Director, CEDS  
Caitlin McCormick, Associate Director, Public Policy



# Recognition of Departing Panel Members

---



# Thank you!



**We'd like to give special thanks to those members whose terms end this year:**

- Cindy Luxhoj
- Stephen Mathai
- Marcia Rupnow
- Julie Abramson

# Panelist Recognition: Cindy Luxhoj, MUP



- Represented: Patients, Caregivers, and Patient Advocates
- Served as Co-Chair of the RDAP from 2018-2020
- Served as the Executive Director of Alagille Syndrome Alliance (ALGSA) and tirelessly helped families cope with the daily challenges of ALGS
- Provided the patient caregiver perspective of the challenges associated with rare diseases

# Panelist Recognition: Stephen Mathai, MD



- Represented: Researchers
- Extensive experience treating patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a rare disease that affects 15-50 people per million in the United States
- Serves on the Scientific Leadership Council of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association
- Chair-elect of the Pulmonary Vascular Disease Network of the American College of Chest Physicians

# Panelist Recognition: Marcia Rupnow, MS, PhD



- Represented: Industry
- Vice President of Value Evidence and Outcomes at GlaxoSmithKline
- Unique breadth of experience in both pharmaceutical and medical device sectors
- Co-authored over 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals and over 100 poster/podium presentations at scientific meetings
- Also served on the PCORI Advisory Panel on Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options from 2013 to 2016

# Panelist Recognition: Julie Abramson, MS



- Represented: Patients, Caregivers, and Patient Advocates
- Serves as a patient advocate and co-chair on the Steering Committee for the NephCure Kidney Network, a PCORI-funded PPRN
- Mentored patients in learning about Nephrotic syndrome and contributed to a new patient learning module with NephCure
- Diverse skillset including an understanding of the scientific process and creative methods to engage patients

# Acknowledgments & Recap

---



# Adjourn

---

