

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

15th Annual HMO Research Network Conference  
April 26-29, 2009 – Danville, PA

11:45 am – 2:00 pm  
Tuesday, April 28th • Lobby

PS2 – 10

### The CRN Cancer Communication Research Center

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Kathleen Mazor, EdD, Meyers Primary Care Institute, University of Massachusetts Medical School;  
Edward H Wagner, MD, MPH, Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative

We propose an integrated set of three, large posters that will describe the main components of a new research center that bridges HMORN institutions.

**Background:** The CRN Cancer Communication Research Center (CCRC) was established in September 2008 at Kaiser Colorado Institute for Health Research.

**Objectives:** The CCRC's objectives are to discover the most promising practice-based approaches to cancer communication and care coordination, and to disseminate those approaches. Integrated care delivery systems represent promising opportunities to study these approaches, and the CRN CCRC, with its embedded organizational focus will take advantage of the CRN as a virtual laboratory.

**Specific Aims:** The CRN CCRC 1) leverages the existing infrastructure of the CRN to support both the discovery and dissemination of practice-based communication strategies and organizational resources; 2) supports four investigator-initiated research projects to advance communication theory and to evaluate strategies informed by theory; and 3) provides administrative, financial, and scientific support to new investigators, including clinicians, in the development of pilot projects, and assists in submission of broader, investigator-initiated proposals to be submitted for extramural funding.

**Methods:** Two R01-scale investigator-initiated research projects will advance and test communication theory. The first will: characterize patients' and providers' experiences communicating about errors in cancer care; investigate the health system factors that promote or inhibit effective communication; and develop, disseminate, and evaluate provider training materials and patient informational materials. The second will develop and test an intervention to decrease patient uncertainty and improve psychosocial and communicative outcomes during the period from suspicion of cancer through diagnosis and plan of care. The Center's research projects will be augmented and supported by Shared Resource Cores. The Discovery Core will identify the most promising practice-based innovations and approaches; the Dissemination Core will focus on data harmonization and applying dissemination science to effective interventions.