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news & announcements

Collaboratory FOA discussion calls held

The FOA released January 24 for a Health Care Systems Collaboratory Coordinating Center differs substantially from the limited competition FOA released in 2011. The co-principal Investigators that led the HMORN's response to the first FOA, Eric Larson and John Steiner, have chosen not to lead a response to the revised FOA, given the substantive changes to the scope, expectations and requirements.

Two calls were convened (February 2 and 6) to discuss the current FOAs for Collaboratory Coordinating Center (U54) and Pragmatic Trial Demonstration Projects (UH2/UH3). The calls provided a forum for sharing reactions and ideas – particularly around the new Coordinating Center FOA with a different emphasis than anticipated. Contact [Ella Thompson](#) for notes from the calls.

Richard Platt of Harvard Pilgrim expressed an interest in leading a response to the Coordinating Center FOA that would leverage the strengths of the HMORN. He stated that he had discussed a broader approach to this response with [Robert Califf](#), Vice Chancellor for Research at Duke, who is widely known for his experience in coordinating large research projects for NIH. HMORN investigators interested in offering their talents and expertise for the application are invited to [email Rich Platt](#).

No others attending these two phone calls expressed plans to lead a response to the U54 FOA at this time. Regarding the UH2/UH3, discussions continue within and across Network sites.

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HMORN 2012 updates and reminders

- Early bird registration for the conference ends on **March 23rd**. [Register for the conference](#) today!
- Hotel rooms are booking up quickly. In addition to the Seattle Sheraton, Homewood Suites, just a block from conference activities, has been added as another hotel to accommodate conference goers. To book your stay, navigate to the [HMORN Homewood Suites page](#) or the [HMORN Sheraton Conference page](#) to receive the HMORN conference group rates.
Government employees: Please call Kristal Freitas at Homewood Suites to receive the special Government rate: (206) 613-2082.
- Oral presenters, posters, conversation cafe topics and ancillary meetings will be notified in early February of their session date and times, along with other information.

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Immediate funding increase announced for Alzheimer's disease research

The Obama administration announced it will immediately increase NIH Alzheimer's disease research funding by \$50 million will be available for cutting-edge Alzheimer's research. The FY2013 budget will boost such funding by \$80 million. In addition, \$26 million is being made available for caregiver support, provider education, public awareness and improvements in data infrastructure.

[Read the HHS news release](#) and [HHS Fact Sheet: We Can't Wait: Taking Action on Alzheimer's Disease](#) to learn more.

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PCORI seeks input on national priorities for research and research agenda

PCORI released draft national priorities for research and a research agenda on January 23 for public comment. The priorities will guide future comparative effectiveness FOAs released by PCORI. The current comment period to finalize these items ends March 15, 2012. Visit PCORI's website to [learn more](#), to [review the draft priorities and research agenda](#), or to [provide input](#).

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NIH seeking input on multiple topics of interest

NIH is seeking input for planning purposes on several topics germane to the HMORN.

Input into Deliberations of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director Working Group on Diversity in the Biomedical Research Workforce. See [Request for Information](#) for details.
Deadline: February 24

Value of Information (VOI) Research. See [Request for Information](#) from NHLBI for details.
Responses due by March 2

Advisory Committee to the NIH Director Working Group on Data and Informatics
Review [Request for Information](#) for details. Deadline: March 12

Input on Availability of Resources and Strategies to Encourage Outcomes and Health Services Research in Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Review [Request for Information](#) from NIDCD. Deadline: March 15

Optimization of Information Technology for Biobanks Collecting Specimens from Clinical Trials Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). See [Request for Information](#) for details. Deadline: March 30.

Scientific Strategic Plan for the proposed National Institute of Substance use and Addiction Disorders. Review [Request for Information](#). Deadline: May 11

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NIH creates NCATS and dissolves NCRR

NIH is creating a National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) dedicated to translating scientific discoveries into new drugs, diagnostics, and devices. NCATS will have its own advisory Council, staff, and programs. See [NOT-OD-12-027](#) and [Feedback NIH](#) for more information.

NIH is also disbanding the [National Center for Research Resources](#) and move NCRR grants, applications, programs, staff, and funding to NCATS and other institutes. See [NOT-OD-12-026](#) for more about NIH's plans.

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CRN study featured in JAMA and NY Times

Results of an observational study of breast surgery outcomes from KP Colorado, Group Health, Marshfield Clinic and the University of Vermont were published in this month in JAMA.

Variability in Reexcision Following Breast Conservation Surgery

Laurence E McCahill, MD, Richard M Single, PhD, [Erin J Aiello Bowles, MPH](#), [Heather S Feigelson, PhD MPH](#), Ted A James MD, Tom Barney BS, [Jessica M Engel, MSN](#) and [Adedayo A Onitilo, MD MSCR](#)

JAMA 2012; 307(5):467-475. [Online abstract](#).

The [February 1, 2012 issue of the New York Times](#) also highlighted results from this CRN-related study. The project was funded by a Challenge grant and led by Dr. Larry McCahill of the Van Andel Research institute with co-investigators at KPCO, MCRF and GHC.

JAMA publishes related Viewpoints by HMORN investigators

The January 18 issue of JAMA featured related viewpoints by Group Health Research Institute and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute investigators. The articles were concerning a recently released report of the NHLBI Expert Panel on [Integrated Guidelines for Cardiovascular Health and Risk Reduction in Children and Adolescents](#).

Universal Screening and Drug Treatment of Dyslipidemia in Children and Adolescents
[Bruce M Psaty MD PhD](#) and Fredrick P Rivara, MD MPH
JAMA 2012; 307(3):257-258. [Online extract](#). [Audio interview](#).

Is Pediatric Lipid Screening Justified?
[Matthew Gillman, MD SM](#) and Stephen Daniels MD PhD
JAMA 2012; 307(3):259-260. [Online extract](#).

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JAMA call for papers: medical education theme issue 2012

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts relating to all aspects of the medical education process. Manuscripts received by May 15 will have the best chance for consideration for publication in the December 2012 special issue.

The effects of medical education at the student, physician, patient, and societal levels are all appropriate for consideration. Preference will be given to high quality studies that include large sample sizes and multiple study sites.

[Read the call for papers](#) for more information and consult the [JAMA Instructions for Authors](#) for submission guidelines.

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upcoming webinars & conferences

Alternatives to the RCT in Implementation Science – Free Webinar

QUERI Implementation Research will host a webinar by Alex Young, MD, MSHS on Thursday, February 9 at 12 pm ET, "Alternatives to the Randomized Controlled Trial in Implementation Science." [Register for the webinar](#). (from [CRN News for February 2012](#))

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Knowledge Mobilization - Free Webinar for Research Administrators

In Canada, many grants are now required to include a "knowledge mobilization" strategy. Knowledge mobilization connects researchers with policy-makers and community organizations seeking research to inform decision-making. Though intended for a Canadian audience, the best practices presented for institutionalizing knowledge mobilization in research institutions may be of interest to HMORN sites.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
10am pacific / 1pm eastern

Why Research Administrators Should Care about Knowledge Mobilization and What You Can Do About It
Presented by David Phipps, PhD, MBA, Director of Research Services and Knowledge Exchange at York University, Canada. Contact tyriea@telus.net to register and obtain session access information; a [webinar flyer](#) offers additional details.

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Technical Assistance webinars announced for Collaboratory FOAs

The NIH is offering video-casts later this month for the NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory FOAs released January 24.

- **Coordinating Center** ([RFA-RM-12-012](#))
Friday, February 17; 2:00 – 4:00 pm eastern (see [NOT-RM-12-012](#))
- **Pragmatic Clinical Trials Demonstration Projects** ([RFA-RM-12-002](#))
Wednesday, February 29; 2:30 – 4:30pm eastern (see [NOT-RM-12-013](#))

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HMORN calendar of conferences & events

Browse through our [online calendar](#) of relevant conferences and symposiums for opportunities to disseminate your research. Have an event or conference for us to add or update? Just [let us know!](#)

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funding opportunities

HMORN-relevant funding opportunities and funder links can now be found on the HMORN website. Simply go to [Member Resources](#) then select [Funding Opportunities](#) from the left menu bar to access the new web content.

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investigator toolbox

Streamlined IRB process applies to most HMORN projects

Think the HMORN's ceded review process can only be used for data only studies? Think again - the rules have changed!

The process can be used for all types of research except clinical trials of drugs, devices and biologics, most of which are FDA-regulated. That's right, interventional studies that are not clinical trials can now use the HMORN's facilitated IRB review process.

Go to the [HMORN Collaboration Toolkit](#) to learn more about the process and download materials including the [SOP for the HMORN's process](#), the [application cover sheet](#), a [flowchart of the process](#), and [FAQs](#). Need to talk to a live person? Call Jeff Braff, DrPH at 510-625-4062. He'll be delighted to help.

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recommended reading

Integrating Technology into Health Care: What Will It Take?

Viewpoint by C. Jason Wang and Andrew T. Haung ([download extract](#))

JAMA, February 8, 2012. Volume 307, No. 6, page 569 – 570.

Where are the Health Care Cost Savings?

Commentary by Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD PHD ([download extract](#)) ([listen to author interview](#))

JAMA, January 4, 2012 Volume 307, No. 1, page 39 – 40.

The Common Rule and Continuous Improvement in Health Care: A Learning Health System Perspective

IOM Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care
Discussion Paper published October 1, 2011 ([download PDF](#))

Harry Selker, Claudia Grossmann, [Alyce Adams](#), Don Goldmann, Christopher Dezii, Gregg Meyer, Veronique Roger, Lucy Savitz, [Rich Platt](#)

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job board

Spread the word about these great career opportunities in the HMO Research Network! For additional opportunities, refer to individual [HMORN member](#) job websites or our recent [past issues](#).

Position <i>Location</i>	Requirements	Contact
NEW! Health Care Delivery and Effectiveness Researcher Department of Population Medicine, Harvard <i>Boston, MA</i>	The ideal candidate will have several years of research experience and demonstrated potential to lead research independently as well as collaborate with colleagues. Candidates should have a strong record of scholarly publication and external grant funding. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.	Send CV and cover letter to: Richard Platt, MD, MS

<p>NEW!</p> <p>Director – Medical and Health Sciences Education</p> <p>Essentia Institute of Rural Health</p> <p><i>Duluth, MN</i></p>	<p>Requires Master’s degree in education, healthcare field, business or related field and 5+ years of progressively responsible experience related to healthcare leadership and/or business/management, significant experience with medical/health science education and continuing health professional education. Requires 3+ years experience in a leadership role including proven experience with organizational change, program development, and process improvement techniques. Position may be located in Fargo, ND or in Brainerd or Duluth, MN (Duluth preferred).</p>	<p>See EIRH jobs page</p> <p>Direct inquiries to Missy Meierhoff</p>
<p>NEW!</p> <p>Research Informatics Analyst I</p> <p>Essentia Institute of Rural Health</p> <p><i>Duluth, MN</i></p>	<p>Requires Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, Information Systems or equivalent and 1+ years of experience in a Computer Programming or Systems Analysis position including documented experience creating queries and databases (SQL and SAS experience encouraged),</p> <p>Or requires Associate’s degree in Computer Science, Information Systems or equivalent field of study and 3+ years of experience, as above.</p>	<p>See EIRH jobs page</p> <p>Direct inquiries to Missy Meierhoff</p>
<p>2 Positions Available</p> <p>Senior Research Scientist</p> <p>Essentia Institute of Rural Health</p> <p><i>Duluth, MN</i></p>	<p>Requires Doctorate degree or professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DVM, DO) with additional Master’s degree in life sciences, medical/health sciences, public health, epidemiology, economics or related field. Requires strong, well-developed grant funding and publication history. Demonstrated commitment to rural health issues.</p>	<p>See EIRH jobs page</p> <p>Direct inquiries to Jocelyn Heid</p>
<p>Manager, Research Database Services</p> <p>Department of Research & Evaluation</p> <p><i>Pasadena, CA</i></p>	<p>Requires minimum of Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in health care services, information systems, computer science or a related field of study; extensive experience in database environment; and excellent supervisory and leadership skills.</p>	<p>Go to job posting for Job ID 085394</p> <p>Direct resumes to Rica Lilly</p>
<p>Associate Scientist</p> <p>Essentia Institute of Rural Health</p> <p><i>Duluth, MN</i></p>	<p>Requires doctorate or professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DVM, DO) with additional Requires Master’ Degree in life sciences, medical/health sciences, public health, epidemiology, economics, or related field. Requires strong, well-developed grant funding</p>	<p>See EIRH jobs page</p> <p>Direct inquiries to Jocelyn Heid</p>

	and publication history. Demonstrated commitment to rural health issues.	
Associate Scientist – Health Services Research Essentia Institute of Rural Health <i>Duluth, MN</i>	Requires medical or doctorate degree in life sciences, medical/health sciences, public health or economics, plus minimum of 4 years research experience with demonstrated success in grant funding, a record of publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at scientific meetings.	See EIRH jobs page Direct inquiries to Missy Meierhoff
Senior Biostatistician Essentia Institute of Rural Health <i>Duluth, MN</i>	PhD in statistics or closely related field. May consider Doctoral degree in life sciences, medical/health sciences, public health or economics with a strong emphasis in biostatistics. Requires 5+ years relevant research experience with progressive levels of responsibility in creation/design of clinical studies. Record of external funding, journal publications and scientific meeting presentations.	See EIRH jobs page Direct inquiries to Jocelyn Heid
Research Informatics Analyst (II, III or IV DOE) Essentia Institute of Rural Health <i>Duluth, MN</i>	Requires bachelor's degree in computer science, information systems or equivalent field of study and 3 – 5+ years of experience in a computer programming or systems analysis position including documented experience creating SQL queries and documented SAS experience in a research environment. See job posting for alternative minimum qualifications.	See EIRH jobs page Direct inquiries to Missy Meierhoff

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