Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Forum

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Goals

- Provide an overview of AHRQ’s mission and programs
- Discuss the Agency's current funding opportunities and priorities
- Share AHRQ resources for researchers
- Provide an opportunity to meet with a representative from AHRQ
What’s in a name

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

- A part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services
- A scientific research agency
- The leading federal agency on health care quality and safety
To improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans
AHRQ

- Improves health care quality for all Americans
- Transforms research into practice
- Improves health care outcomes through research
- Uses evidence to improve health care
Research at HHS: Where Does AHRQ Fit In?

- **NIH** -- basic biomedical bench research and “efficacy” clinical trials
- **CDC** -- the public health system and community-based interventions
- **AHRQ** -- “effectiveness” of health care services and the health care delivery system
The Organization

- One Agency
- Five Centers
  - Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets (CDOM)
  - Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends (CFACT)
  - Center for Outcomes and Evidence (COE)
  - Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships (CP3)
  - Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQuIPS)
The Organization

- One Agency
- Five Centers
- Four Offices
  - Office of the Director (OD)
  - Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer (OCKT)
  - Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations (OEREP)
  - Office of Performance Accountability, Resources, and Technology (OPART)
Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets (CDOM)

- Provides a locus of leadership and expertise for advances in health care delivery, organization, and markets through research
- Director – Irene Fraser
- Projects
  - Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)
  - Quality Indicators
  - ACTION (formerly ISDRNs)
  - Long-term Care
Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends (CFACT)

- Conducts, supports, and manages studies of the cost and financing of health care, the access to health care services and related trends. CFACT also develops data sets to support policy and behavioral research and analyses.

- Director – Steve Cohen

- Projects
  - Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)
  - Intramural research
Center for Outcomes and Evidence (COE)

- Conducts and supports research and assessment of health care practices, technologies, processes, and systems.
- Director – Jean Slutsky
- Projects
  - Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs)
  - Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERTs)
  - National Guidelines Clearinghouse
Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships (CP3)

- Expands the knowledge base for clinical providers and patients and assures the translation of new knowledge and systems improvement into primary care practice

- Director – Helen Burstin

- Projects
  - Health Information Technology
  - US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)
  - Practice-based Research Networks (PBRNs)
Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQuIIPS)

- Works to improve the quality and safety of our healthcare system through research and implementation of evidence
- Director – Bill Munier
- Projects
  - Consumer Assessment of Heath Plans (CAHPS)
  - Patient Safety
  - National Healthcare Quality and Disparity Reports
The Offices

- **Office of the Director**
- **Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations (OEREP)**
  - Grant review
  - Training grants
  - Coordinates priority population activities
- **Office of Performance Accountability, Resources, and Technology (OPART)**
  - Grant Administration
- **Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer (OCKT)**
  - Research dissemination and product development
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<td>System capacity and emergency preparedness</td>
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AHRQ Small Grant Research Program

- R03 mechanism
- Developmental research projects
- New investigators encouraged
- $100K total (D+I) over 1 – 2 years
- Applications accepted March, July, and Nov 24th
- New announcement to be published early ’06
  - Electronic submission required beginning July ‘06
Continuing Funding Opportunities in 2006

- AHRQ Small Grant Research Program
- AHRQ Health Services Research Program
  - RO1 mechanism
  - Funding cap of $300K/year
  - Continued preference to 2005 areas of special emphasis
    - TRIPP, patient safety and quality, patient centered care, organization and system change research
Other funding opportunities at AHRQ

- **Conference grants**
  - AHRQ Grant Program for Large Conference Support
  - Small Grant Program for Conference Support
    - New announcement to be published Dec ’05
    - Mandatory electronic submission beginning Dec ’05!
Other funding opportunities at AHRQ

- Conference grants
- Training grants
  - AHRQ Grants for Health Services Research Dissertation
  - Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08)
  - Independent Scientist Award (K02)
  - National Research Service Award: Individual Postdoctoral Fellowships (F32)

For more information see: www.ahrq.gov/fund/training/trainix.htm
A few words about eGrants

By the end of FY2007, AHRQ will require electronic submission through grants.gov of all AHRQ competitive grant applications

A few words about eGrants

- All applicants will need to REGISTER with BOTH:
  - Grants.gov
    AND
  - eRA Commons
    (NIH electronic research administration system)
Grants.gov Registration

- Grants.gov requires a one-time registration
- Institutions and not individuals register
  - Requires a Data Universal Numbering System number (DUNS)
  - Registration takes place in Central Contractor Registry (CCR)
  - Detailed instructions at: [http://grants.gov/GetStarted](http://grants.gov/GetStarted)

May take up to 4 weeks to approve registration!
NIH eRA Commons Registration

- A two-step process
- Institution registers first (many already are)
  - Independent of grants.gov registration
- Next, a designated individual at the institution registers each PI
  - PI must be “affiliated” with the institution to be registered
  - PIs may not submit an application unless institution has registered them
- [http://era.nih.gov/commons/index.cfm](http://era.nih.gov/commons/index.cfm)
- May take up to 2 weeks to confirm registration of PI
A few more words about eGrants

- PHS 398 is being phased out
- 424 (R&R) will replace the PHS 398
  - Paper no more, Use 424!
- All electronic announcements will have a specific 424 attached
- Completion of the 424 will require installation of new free software – PureEdge Viewer
  - Available for download at Grant.gov
AHRQ Timeline

- Small Conference Grants – Dec 2005
- Dissertations – Feb 2006
- Small Research Grants – July 2006
- R01 HSR Grants – October 2006

More information available at AHRQ.gov
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

Data

- MEPS: Nationally representative statistics of health care use, expenditures, sources of payment, and insurance coverage for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

- [www.meps.ahrq.gov](http://www.meps.ahrq.gov)
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- **Data**
  - MEPS
  - HCUP
    - Federal, state, industry partnership
    - 90% of all inpatient discharges
    - Includes charge, payer, clinical data
    - Used for development of Quality Indicators usable with discharge data

- [http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/home.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/home.jsp)
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

Data
- MEPS
- HCUP
- National Safety Net Monitoring Data Books
  - [http://www.ahrq.gov/data/safetynet/](http://www.ahrq.gov/data/safetynet/)
  - [http://www.ahrq.gov/data/safetynet/profile.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/data/safetynet/profile.htm)
- NHQR / NHDR
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- **Data**
- **Tools**
  - Quality Tools
    - [www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov](http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov)
  - Quality Measures
  - Quality Indicators
    - [http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/home.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/home.jsp)
  - National Guideline Clearinghouse
Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act

- Signed into law July 2005
- Establishes legal protections for reporting of medical errors
- Creates voluntary Patient Safety Organizations
- Calls for network of patient safety databases
- AHRQ to provide guidance and become repository for National Patient Safety Database

See: www.psnet.ahrq.gov
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- **Data**
- **Tools**
- **Annual AHRQ Conferences**
  - Practice Based Research Networks
    (May 15-17, 2006)
  - Patient Safety and HIT
    (June 4-7, 2006)
  - Translating Research Into Practice
    (~July 14, 2006)
Cool Stuff

- Evidence Reports
  - http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcix.htm

- USPSTF

- Effective Health Care
  - http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/aboutUs/index.cfm
  - New site for results of Section 1013 of MMA
  - Public nomination of topics and comments on draft reports
More Cool Stuff

- Concept Paper Review Programs
  - Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships (CP3)
    - [http://www.ahrq.gov/about/cp3/cp3conrev.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/about/cp3/cp3conrev.htm)
  - Center for Outcomes and Evidence (COE)
    - [http://www.ahrq.gov/about/coer/concept.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/about/coer/concept.htm)
More Cool Stuff

- Active grants database
  - http://www.gold.ahrq.gov/

- Useful tips on preparing a grant
  - “How to Write a Grant application.”
    http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants
  - “Introduction to the Funding Process: A Primer”
    http://www.nimh.nih.gov/researchFunding/introtofund.cfm
  - Peer Review Policy and Issues
    http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer.htm
    http://www.drg.nih.gov/Video/Video.asp
Even More Cool Stuff

- Ordering AHRQ publications
  - AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse
  - 1-800-358-9295
  - Open weekdays, 9 - 5 eastern time

- AHRQ website homepage
  - www.AHRQ.gov
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